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Red, White and Blue the new green

Netflix's reported crackdown on Canadian users circumventing country blocks sparks debate over money and ethics PAGE 22

LANDING HIS DREAM ROLE

BRITISH ACTOR DAVID OYELOWO SAYS HE WAS 'TOLD FROM ABOVE' THAT HE'D PLAY MARTIN LUTHER KING PAGE 25

'Coyote derby' to go on despite death threat

Controversy. Experts question practice of provincewide hunt with cash prizes

Organizers of a coyote hunt plan to go ahead with the event this weekend despite social-media protests and a death threat against one of the organizers. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Despite threats of physical harm and social-media backlash, organizers of an annual coyote hunt say they're moving forward with this weekend's event, calling the objections simple misunderstandings.

The Alberta-wide DKD Coyote Tournament, planned for Saturday, challenges two-person teams to hunt coyotes throughout the province, awarding cash prizes to the teams with the most kills.

Paul, an organizer who asked that his last name not be published due to recent threats he's received — including one message saying he, himself, should be shot — said the day isn't a free-for-all, despite what some opponents allege.

"This is not a mass cull. This is not a mass slaying. We're not running around, shooting on people's property," said Paul.

Last year, 13 coyotes were harvested by 23 participating teams.

While the numbers of animals killed may be small, Paul said the tournament helps to protect farmers who have had their livestock threatened by the predators.

"We want hunters to hunt their home areas, where they are having issues," he said.

But Dr. Shelley Alexander, an assistant professor at the University of Calgary who's been researching coyotes for more than two decades, described that justification as scientifically suspect.

"When you remove a population like that, you don't create a long-term solution to conflict," Alexander said, adding that coyotes are "controlling other species we don't want around."

Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development spokesman Duncan MacDonell said the department has fielded complaints about the coyote-hunting tournament but ultimately has little control over the annual practice.

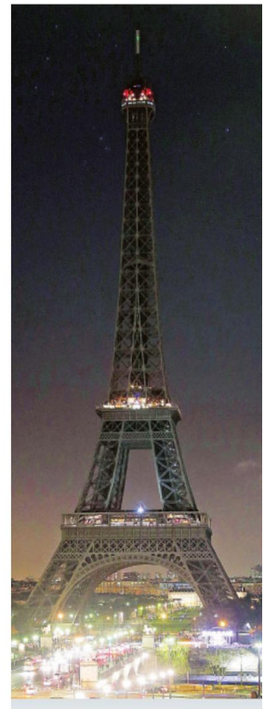
"It involves a species that's more than plentiful in the province, that's considered an agricultural pest," he said, noting you don't need a tag to hunt coyotes.

The province doesn't even keep track of coyote populations, said MacDonell, making it difficult to know how many are killed every year.

That said, he stressed the department doesn't endorse the game and doesn't condone it as a population-management practice.

Alexander believes the complaints are a sign Albertans are changing their attitudes about the general "senseless elimination" of the species, a mindset she believes leads to thousands of coyotes being killed each year in the province.

HELEN PIKE AND LEAH HOLOIDAY/METRO



Tower tribute in defiant Paris

Latest from France's search for the gunmen:

- 800 extra officers in Paris
- Fear feeds the far right
- Free speech under attack

SPECIAL REPORT ON PAGE 18

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Mental health. Social media push skyrockets.

From a modest $500 target, Calgary teen-initiated hashtag #CHHSLetsTalk has skyrocketed to a new goal of $10,000, with the help of enthusiastic social media users and generous stakeholders.

"It's been an incredible response, people have been so, so positive about it," Brett Rothery said.

With supporters come the "haters," but Rothery doesn't see it as bad press. Late Wednesday, William Shatner butted in and started a small twitter tiff when he refused to support the hashtag, calling it a spinoff of Bell's #Letstalk and questioning the local teen's abilitiy to raise funds.

"That, if anything has had a positive effect," Rothery said, adding it was never a negative thing. "It didn't really affect me at all, I see where he's coming from … he's working toward mental health the same way I am; he just wanted to do it a different way."

Other shout-outs from famous supporters include bands like Mother Mother and Hollarado, Arlene Dickinson, artists like Tegan and Sara and many more.

Since its inception, the campaign has secured funding for the 66,000 tweets so far, but was promised an extra $5,000 from CSV Midstream for reaching the 100,000-mention mark, amounting to a grand total of $10,000.

But Rothery said he doesn't deserve all the praise — nine students that make up the Mental Health Committee at Crescent Heights have played an equal role in helping the social media campaign reach successful new heights.

HELEN PIKE/METRO

23 deaths from flu so far in Alberta

Season nears 'peak.'
Province sees 30 to 40 fatalities in a 'typical' flu season: AHS

Jasper Otis, 8, got immunized early this flu season, opting for an injection rather than nasal spray in October. Free flu shots are available to all Albertans six months of age and older. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO FILE

Influenza has been confirmed in 23 people who died in Alberta this flu season, a death toll nearly three times as severe compared to the same time last year.

Nine of those deaths came in the Edmonton health zone, six in the Calgary zone, three in the south, three in the north and two in the central zone, according to data published Thursday by Alberta Health Services.

At this time last year, AHS had confirmed influenza in eight deaths, but chief medical officer of health Dr. James Talbot said the higher toll so far this year is in part due to the flu season having started about two to three weeks earlier and being "close to reaching its peak right now."

Overall, Talbot said, this is a "fairly ordinary" year for influenza rates.

So far this season, at least 1.171 million doses of flu vaccine have been administered in Alberta. Of those, 478,088 were in Calgary and 391,500 were in Edmonton.

These numbers are likely underrepresented, AHS cautioned, as they don't include doses administered by non-public-health and non-AHS staff members past Nov. 30, due to "delays" in gathering all the data over the December holidays.

Last season, Alberta exhausted its entire supply of 1.16 million flu-vaccine doses and immunized 27 per cent of the population.

This season, the province purchased hundreds of thousands more doses and set a goal to immunize 45 per cent of Albertans.

So far, Talbot said, about 29 per cent of the population has been immunized, which is nearly a third more than at the same time last year, and the second-highest rate on record.

"There's still time to get your shot and there's lots of locations," he said.

Talbot said this season has seen a high prevalence of a mutated H3N2 influenza strain, a variant of the virus that the vaccine — prepared in large batches months ahead of flu season — is a "partial match" for.

That strain tends to hit older people particularly hard, compared to the H1N1 variant which was more common last year and had a greater affect on younger adults.

Clinics

Where to find free flu-shot clinics this weekend:

- Brentwood Village Mall and South Calgary Health Centre on Friday from 11 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.
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Minister mulls re-weighting high school diploma exams

Testing talk. School boards, teachers in favour of change

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Education Minister Gordon Dirks says he's keen to talk testing with education stakeholders, but hasn't committed to any changes to exam weighting. METRO FILE

Alberta's education minister says he's considering a push among school boards and teacher representatives to reduce the lofty weighting of provincial diploma exams, but cautioned there's a "broad mix" of senior-student testing models across Canada.

At a mid-November meeting, more than 80 per cent of school boards backed a motion to lobby the province on reducing the weight of Grade 12 exams from 50 per cent of a student's final grade to 30 per cent.

The Alberta Teachers' Association, meanwhile, has maintained its position calling for a reduced weighting to 20 per cent since 1990.

But Education Minister Gordon Dirks said in a year-end interview that while he was considering the school boards' position, there was "no anticipated change on the horizon" when it comes to the diploma weight.

"This is an issue that I'll be discussing with my colleagues to determine whether or not we want to engage in a more robust review of this issue," he said.

Some out-of-province universities have said they don't even consider an Alberta student's diploma exam mark when it comes to admissions because either their administration doesn't agree with the 50 per cent weighting or because the mark simply comes too late in the year to be considered.

Still, Alberta isn't alone in its Grade 12 marking scheme.

Newfoundland, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut all weigh their core-subject diplomas at 50 per cent, according to data from Alberta Education. Newfoundland also awards Grade 12 history marks in similar fashion.

Meanwhile, education ministries in B.C. and Saskatchewan maintain a 40 per cent diploma weighting.

Other provinces, including Ontario, have students write a literacy exam earlier in their high school years that they're required to pass to be eligible for a diploma.

Follow Jeremy Nolais on Twitter @Metro_Nolais

Education

2nd SLA trial possible: Dirks

The education minister has hinted at a second trial of Student Learning Assessments for Grade 3 students.

The computerized tests aim to replace long-standing provincial achievement tests (PATs), but teachers said a pilot this fall was marred by delays and technological shortcomings and it piled on hours of additional marking.

One Calgary Catholic teacher recently told Metro it took her class more than two weeks to slog through the exams, and she frequently had to reboot the computers used to take the tests — the PATs have traditionally been written using pen and paper.

"It was very stressful," the teacher said. "If they want everybody in the province to write these, they need to be technologically ready for that. It's very annoying to have to stop and that really raised the kids' anxiety."

But Education Minister Gord Dirks said the sample of testing data coming out of the trial was "robust" and his ministry is keen to work out any kinks.

"That's exactly why it's a pilot, to figure out how we can improve the system before we actually push the button in its final form," he said.

The SLAs were to be rolled out for Grade 6 students next year, but Dirks didn't commit to following that timeline.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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Jaywalkers asked to use sidewalks

Calgary Airport. Employees, pedestrians nabbed for crossing the street illegally by CPS, who handed out about 20 tickets

HELEN PIKE
helen.pike@metronews.ca

Pedestrians cross at a marked intersection at the Calgary airport. JENNIFER FRIESEN/METRO

Employees of the Calgary Airport were in for a surprise earlier this week as they were intercepted on their daily walk from the parking lot by a Calgary Police officer in an unmarked vehicle.

An employee who wished to remain unnamed told Metro a CPS member was sitting in an unmarked Ford F150 handing out tickets to pedestrians jaywalking Monday and Tuesday. The employee was warned of the officer by a fellow worker who received a ticket for "failure to use a sidewalk."

"I was aware through Twitter that there was some employees that expressed concern on that," said Jody Moseley, spokesperson for the Calgary Airport Authority. "We leave the care and control of pedestrians and laws to the Calgary police."

Calgary police confirmed that although there isn't a blitz or focus on nabbing jaywalkers, a member noticed it was an issue and stationed themselves there. The member gave out about 20 tickets.

The location, which was mapped out for Metro, is a path often used by employees to zip around a parking lot and cut down on walk time. The route doesn't have a sidewalk, and sees workers walking along the outside of a fenced-in lot.

"I understand that CPS have been here because there has been some jaywalking on roads," Moseley said. "I'm sure you can imagine how dangerous that is at this time of year, or any time of year on a major roadway."

A Twitter account was made by another employee anonymously to complain. And several Reddit posts suggested employees were walking on the curb because it cut down time on the walk from parking lot to terminal because parking lots are quite far from the building.

Man pleads guilty to drunk-driving incident that killed 20-year-old man

A Calgary man accused in a drunk-driving incident that claimed the life of 20-year-old Francis Pesa on New Year's Day 2014 pleaded guilty on Thursday morning.

Kulwinder Singh Chohan, 36, was charged with impaired driving causing death after the Dodge Ram he was driving crossed the centre line while traveling south in the 9600 block of Metis Trail N.E.

Police say the Dodge sideswiped a car before being struck by a 2011 BMW driven by Pesa, traveling northbound.

Pesa was taken to hospital in critical life-threatening condition and died five days later.

Pesa's older brother, Hervin, was in court on Thursday and said he's doubtful Chohan is sorry for the crash that resulted in his brother's death.

"Personally I don't believe that he has remorse," he said. "I don't think he's shown it enough."

"It took a year and he wasn't even prepared to say a statement, even if his lawyer prepared it for him," he said.

Both the Crown and defence are recommending a three-year prison sentence alongside a five-year driving prohibition.

Quoted

"I don't believe that he has remorse. I don't think that he's shown it."

Hervin Pesa, older brother of Francis who died following a crash with Chohan's vehicle on Jan. 1, 2014.

A date for sentencing will be set on Monday.

METRO/NEWSTALK 770

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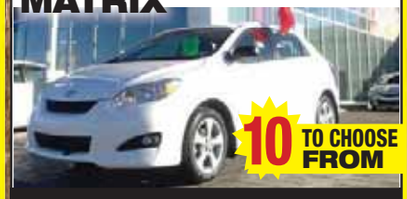

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Edmonton. Convicted killer denied appeal

Alberta's top court has dismissed an appeal by a man convicted in the sex slaying of an Edmonton teenager on a golf course.

Michael Briscoe is serving a life sentence for sexual assault, kidnapping and first-degree murder in the death of 13-year-old Nina Courtepatte in 2005.

A group of people lured the girl from West Edmonton Mall to the golf course, where she was raped, stabbed and beaten to death.

Briscoe was initially acquitted of the charges after testifying that he did not know of the murder plan and his involvement was to drive the car.

The Crown won an appeal, and Briscoe was convicted after a second trial in 2012. The trial judge ruled that Briscoe did not directly commit the acts but assisted another man, Joseph Laboucan, in the crime.

The Alberta Court of Appeal unanimously agreed in its latest decision that Briscoe has no valid grounds for appeal.

Justice Clifton O'Brien wrote that Briscoe's rights were breached when Mounties asked him to give a DNA sample without his being given the opportunity to obtain the advice of a lawyer. But the judge said that mistake wasn't "profound."

O'Brien added that society's interest in having the case go to court weighed heavily in favour of admission of the evidence.

"Here a child was lured to an isolated place by a group of people, that included the appellant, to be sexually assaulted and murdered. Society has a substantial interest in finding and punishing those responsible," he wrote.

Along with Laboucan, three other young people were also convicted in Nina's death.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Separate case

Laboucan was also found guilty of first-degree murder in the death of Ellie-May Meyer. The prostitute, who was killed two days before Courtepatte, was found in a farmer's field. Briscoe was also charged in Meyer's death but acquitted.

EVOLVING BEYOND CALGARY'S HOMEOWNER RITE OF PASSAGE

IN DEFENCE OF
Mike Morrison
calgary@metronews.ca

According to a report from Workopolis, a home in Calgary costs an average of $465,047. METRO FILE

What's the cost of home ownership in Calgary?

Well, according Workopolis, which put out a new report this week, it's $465,047. Workopolis estimates the average mortgage payment is $2,026 and Calgarians need to have an income of about $89,000 to afford a home.

Depending on what kind of work you do in the city, those numbers are either reasonable or crippling. If you're like me, they're just another reason why I continue to be uninterested in buying a home, at least not in a city with a market as volatile as Calgary's.

Sure, I've popped my head into a few of the condominium sales centres scattered around urban Calgary, but with my income and list of wants, there's just nothing out there for me.

And do you know what? I'm OK with that. Much of Calgary — at least the places that people actually want to live in — is great, just not affordable for the average Calgarian, let alone a first-time homeowner.

The pressure to buy a home is something we've all felt at some point or another. It's some sort of rite of passage passed on from our parents.

But it's also a dated concept that, as a society, we should evolve past. At one point in Canada, homes were very affordable. It wasn't even that long ago in Calgary.

But, in a very short time, homes have become expensive and some say overpriced. Why would you want to play that game unless you could really afford it? For some, owning a home means success, prosperity and maturity. For me, I think there's lots of ways of demonstrating all of those things without becoming house poor. Truthfully, I find it hard to believe that so many people actually want to go into massive debt just to get a walk-in closet, a "man cave" in their basement and a green space for a backyard. (Is there anything more depressing than the fact that lawns are so small now, we have to call them green spaces?)

Of course I don't speak for everyone. If you have a growing family, owning a house becomes somewhat more important. But if you're feeling the pressure to buy a home and you can't realistically afford it, then don't get one. That's OK.

There's lots of things that you can afford, like renting in your favourite neighbourhood or that trip to Europe you've been dreaming about.

Another survey came out this week. The Canadian Institute for Health Information said that Calgarians live for an average of 82.3 years — more than a year longer than the national average. If that's accurate, many of us still have a lot of time to buy the house we've always dreamed of. So what's the rush?

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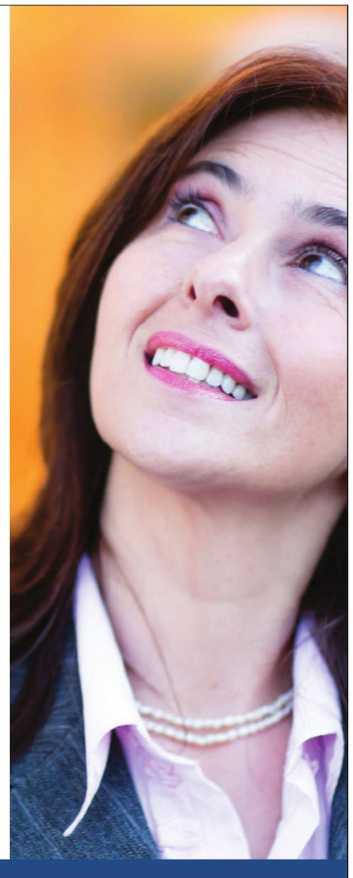

HEALTHCARE • BUSINESS • TECHNOLOGY • LEGAL • ACCOUNTING

Students at Crescent Heights wait to board a Calgary Transit bus.
JENNIFER FRIESEN/METRO

En route to teen strategy

'Paying attention'. Calgary peace officers looking into a youth conduct on buses, LRT

HELEN PIKE
helen.pike@metronews.ca

Taking transit can be a bumpy ride for teens, whether their rowdy classmates are getting on a last nerve, or a schoolyard bully is pushing buttons on the way to and from class.

Peace officers are working on strategies to improve student conduct on city buses and LRT, which they say has been an ongoing issue for years.

Brian Whitelaw, co-ordinator of public safety and enforcement for Calgary Transit, said this is the year he hopes to concentrate on a youth transit strategy.

He said youth between 13 and 21 are likely responsible for most bus shelter damage and conduct on buses always has room for improvement.

"As long as there are kids, there's going to be noise, there's going to be acting out," Whitelaw said. "The bus driver controls 99 per cent of what's going on ... our role is that we're paying attention on a day-to-day basis."

In a statement, the Calgary Board of Education said transit provides a monthly report to school boards about incidents involving students who travel to and from school on buses.

With the new bus detail in place, Calgary Transit is able to respond to schools and work towards a smoother ride for teens and partner with both Calgary Police Service and school boards to follow up on recurring issues.

Whitelaw added part of this year's strategy will hopefully raise awareness about damaged property, bullying and other youth issues.

"It's really sitting down and probably trying to raise awareness," Whitelaw said. "We'd like to make sure for kids who do get bullied they understand that there's an avenue to complain as well and that we'll actually do something about it."

Quite a gamble

AGLC 'actively' reviewing possibility of online gaming portal

Albertans may have to wait before they hit regulated slots online, say officials with the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC).

On Thursday, the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation launched PlayOLG.ca, which enables Ontario residents to gamble on games like blackjack and roulette with profits going back to the provincial government.

AGLC spokeswoman Jody Korchinski said the commission is examining the possibility of creating an online gaming portal in Alberta, but wouldn't provide details on where they are in the process.

"No final decisions have been made, but this is something that has been actively under review and could be a good revenue opportunity for the Alberta Lottery Fund," she said.

Korchinski wouldn't get into specifics about revenue projections or when a decision on an online gambling portal may be made, but said the AGLC is cognizant online gambling is popular in the province.

"We're certainly aware that technology is changing," she said.

"Player expectations are moving into that online and mobile front and there is expectations from consumers that this type of product be available for Alberta players."

While many Albertans are already gambling online, an online gaming portal maintained by the AGLC would mean profits would be used to support government and community initiatives. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

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Drug offences up in Calgary

Smacked up. Number of heroin charges increase by 26% since 2013

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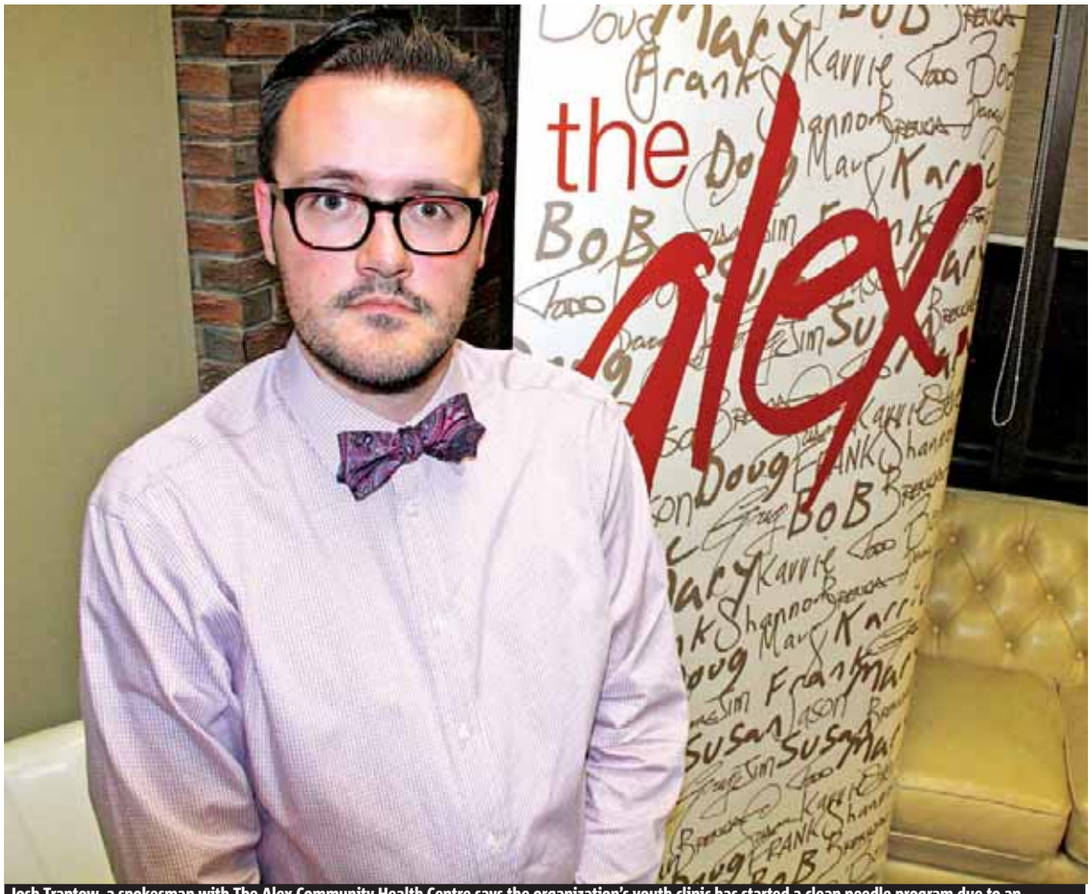

Josh Traptow, a spokesman with The Alex Community Health Centre says the organization's youth clinic has started a clean needle program due to an increased popularity of heroin usage. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Drug users in the city may be getting busted more often by police, and heroin offenders are among those leading the way in increases.

Calgary police statistics show the city saw a jump in drug offences of more than eight per cent in the first nine month ending September 2014 with 1,409 drug charges compared with 1,299 in the same 2013 timeframe.

The Calgary police statistics break down offences by four main drug categories: cannabis, crack/cocaine, heroin and all other drugs.

Drug offences in the "other drugs" category saw the biggest jump, as it increased by 43 per cent by September 2014, compared with 2013.

Heroin charges saw the second highest increase, as 2014 saw 34 offences, an increase of roughly 26 per cent when compared to 27 in 2013 and a spike of roughly 750 per cent when compared to 2010.

Josh Traptow, communications manager with the Alex Community Health Centre said the youth health clinic started a harm reduction program in November, providing clean needles due to an increase in heroin usage.

"With heroin, there's always the problem of dirty needles, diseases and the infections that come with heroin use," he said. "So obviously an increase in heroin use could result in increased Hep C and things like that."

Since its creation, the youth clinic has been distributing roughly five needles on a weekly basis.

High prices. Falling oil won't drop dope costs

Plunging oil prices won't likely mean a drop in demand for illegal drugs, say Alberta law enforcement officials.

Mike Tucker with the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team (ALERT) said the demand for illicit drugs in Alberta is still growing, despite a drop in oil prices that has caused some panic in the province's economic sector.

Tucker said it's far too soon to predict the effect, if there's any at all.

"What's fair to say, at least in the past year, we've noticed that the drug market in Alberta has been particularly strong and a lot of that was tied to the economy," he said.

"The illicit market kind of mirrors what's taking place."

Tucker explained recent busts in Edmonton indicate larger gangs, like the British Columbia-based Red Scorpions, still see Alberta as a place to expand.

Tucker explained the price of drugs is more dependent on geography than the economy, noting the price of some drugs can vary from place to place.

"The prices of cocaine aren't tied to the price of a barrel of oil," he said. "So we'll just have to wait to see how this shakes down."

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Anderson. Security boosted after death threat, MLA says

A former Opposition member who recently crossed the floor to join Alberta's governing Tories says Mounties have stepped up security at his home and office following a phone threat to kill him.

"I have received several disturbing emails and phone calls over the last couple of weeks, including a death threat left on my personal voice mail," Rob Anderson posted to his Facebook page Thursday.

"I have provided the recording and details to local law enforcement, and they are currently investigating.

"The RCMP has been very thorough throughout this process and has provided increased security and monitoring of my office and personal residence."

Anderson, who now sits as a backbencher, could not be reached, and a spokesperson for Premier Jim Prentice declined comment.

Alberta RCMP spokeswoman Sgt. Josee Valiquette wouldn't say if an investigation is underway.

Earlier this week, Anderson announced he will not seek re-election, in part because of the angry reaction that followed his decision last month to join Prentice's Progressive Conservatives along with eight other Wildrose party members.

The move left the official Opposition with five legislature members, compared with 72 for the Tories.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Controversial move

The mass floor-crossing brought a fusillade of public criticism.

- Some have characterized the former Wildrosers as opportunistic sellouts who abandoned the democratic principle that strong governments involve healthy opposition.

New mom reflects on nine 'terrifying' months

Single, Pregnant and Horny. 'I'm a girl that has no shame,' author says of approach to first-person writing

ROBSON FLETCHER
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Pregnancy: "It's not completely the worst thing in the world."

That not-so-ringing endorsement of spending 280 days gestating a human being comes courtesy of Jessica Brady, a third-year communications student at Calgary's Mount Royal University.

Just about three years ago, Brady found herself in a situation that didn't quite fit the typical narrative written about — and supposedly for — people in her situation.

"I read so many books when I was pregnant," she said. "And it drove me crazy, because it was all so nice and pretty. It was like, 'Have your husband rub your back.' What husband?!"

Rather than continuing to read about other women's experiences that had little in common with her own, she decided to write "little blips" about what pregnancy was like for her. She emailed them to herself and then, over the past summer, with advice and support from MRU's Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, compiled the notes into a book.

It's bluntly titled Single, Pregnant, and Horny: Pregnancy and Motherhood Uncensored.

"I added research but kept it very anecdotal and comedic," Brady said of the book, available as a 104-page Kindle download from Amazon.ca.

While it started out as a personal exercise, Brady now hopes her writing will resonate with other women in similar situations.

"It's not like it used to be," she said. "People used to have tons and tons of support when they had babies. Most women were married. Most women had tons of family support around them. Now, women are career-oriented and they're more alone."

Pregnancy, unvarnished

"The book is vulgar. I talk about pregnancy sex. I talk about what it's like. I give details. That kind of content would make some people very uncomfortable, but it also answers the questions that new moms want to ask but don't want to say out loud."

Jessica Brady, author of Single, Pregnant, and Horny: Pregnancy and Motherhood Uncensored

Brady believes many women feel ashamed to talk openly about some of the more personal or — let's be blunt — gross parts of being pregnant and she emphatically took a "no shame" approach to her writing.

"I talk about how I peed my pants," she said. "There are pictures of the progression of my stretch marks in there."

When all the words were put to page, she worried her work might discourage women from ever having children but found from "trial reads" that many weren't put off by the unvarnished truth of her experience.

"They actually came out wanting to have kids, because I don't just talk about the bad," she said. "That moment when you meet your baby — it is life-changing. It does make it all worth it.

"But it's still disgusting. There's no sugar-coating that birth is disgusting."

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Jessica Brady meets her daughter for the first time after a pregnancy experience that she felt compelled to write about and share. CONTRIBUTED

Got game. Alta. scientists' poker program can't lose

While the news may sadden the hearts of rec-room card sharps everywhere, scientists have taught a computer how to play unbeatable poker.

However, the winners in this game are programmers trying to do everything from improve public security to help doctors treat patients with diabetes.

"We should be able to use these algorithms in any well-defined problem," said Michael Bowling, the University of Alberta computer scientist who co-authored a paper in the journal Science that details how the program for two-handed, fixed-bet Texas Hold 'Em can't do worse than break even.

Scientists in the field of game theory long ago taught computers to play games such as checkers and chess. But poker has remained elusive because it's a so-called "imperfect information" game. A player has to make decisions without knowing all the data, such as what the other player is holding.

"This game has been, historically, an important challenge problem," Bowling said. "Poker is one of the games that really motivated the whole founding of the field of game theory back in the '20s."

Bowling's team made its breakthrough by refining a previously developed technique called counterfactual regret minimization that allows a computer to look back at previous hands and learn from its mistakes. Although that sounds similar to how humans improve, the computer used here became a one-player Las Vegas.

"It spent two months playing billions and billions of hands of poker against itself to find the perfect strategy," said Bowling. "The strategy is 1,000 times larger than all the English-language Wikipedia."

But the point was never to become an unbeatable online poker star. The same process that taught the computer when to hold 'em and when to fold 'em can be transferred to any problem with well-defined rules and outcomes, many options and imperfect information — terrorism security, for example. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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City crews will have the festive fir off curbs within three weeks, depending on each neighbourhood's pick up schedule.

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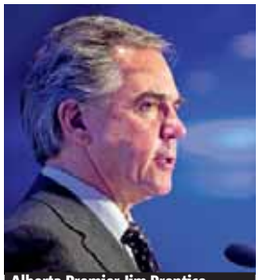
Trees can also be brought to temporary drop off locations which can be found by visiting www.calgarycitynews.com. METRO

Oil prices. Alberta facing $500M deficit: Prentice



Alberta Premier Jim Prentice
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta Premier Jim Prentice says oil prices have plunged so far so fast that this year's projected budget surplus will now be a $500-million deficit.

And he says while his advisers expect oil to rebound slowly over the coming years, the budget may remain in deficit until 2018.

"Things have turned so dramatically that we've gone from a $1.5-billion surplus in November to what looks like a $500-million deficit based on today's projections," Prentice said Thursday.

Oil prices, the lifeblood of Alberta's economy, have been in free fall since last summer, tumbling from US$100 a barrel to below US$50 a barrel this week. The province predicted a barrel of West Texas Intermediate would average $92 a barrel this fiscal year ending March 31. That was revised to almost $89 in November as prices fell.

Each $1 drop in the average price over the course of a year costs the province $215 million.

Prentice said that in next year's budget the plan right now is to budget for oil at $65 a barrel, but he said that would still mean a $6.7-billion drop in projected resource revenue.

He said the forecast average price for the 2016-17 year will be $75 a barrel, which would still leave a $4.9 billion deficit.

"The third year we should start to return to a balanced budget," he said.

The problem, he added, will be if oil prices remain below the $50-a-barrel mark for the long-term. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Meredith Hodges, who's been battling cancer for the past 12 years, has rediscovered the joy in life since joining a new program at Alberta Health Services.
JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

New program helps cancer patients deal with worries

Screening for Distress. Research show emotional stress negatively affects cancer treatment

JENNIFER FRIESEN
calgary@metronews.ca

Meredith Hodges was worried her 12-year-battle with breast cancer was adversely affecting the relationship she had with her husband.

After being diagnosed in 2002, her husband took on the role of caregiver, but after more than a decade, she just didn't know how to approach him anymore. She feared the illness was crippling her marriage.

"He took great care of me, but there wasn't any feeling behind it any more," said Hodges. "It was just a job."

After going to the Tom Baker Cancer Centre and filling out a form describing their day-to-day stressors, things began to change. The form was the first step of a new program called Screening for Distress, which blends medicine with emotional support.

By the numbers

16,000 cancer cases are diagnosed per year in Alberta.

Hodges found herself opening up to her doctors, who enrolled the couple in a program hoping to help ease her stress. After returning five days later, she said they felt like new people.

"It was this magical feeling we came home with," she said. "A new closeness."

By simply communicating with cancer patients, researchers have been able to steer distressed patients to the resources they need.

"Distress is very much an umbrella concept," said Linda Watson, lead of the Person-Centred Care Integration for Cancer Control Alberta.

"It can be driven by anything. Physical issues can drive emotional issues as well as practical issues, and that can be equally as debilitating as a physical problem."

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Michael Kydd answers questions at his lawyer's office Thursday in Dartmouth, N.S., about sexual relations he had with a student at Mount Saint Vincent University. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Instructor expects career now ruined

Mount Saint Vincent University. Nova Scotia instructor admits having sex with student, 38

STEPHANIE TAYLOR
Metro in Halifax

A part-time instructor at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, alleged to have breached the institution's code of conduct, has admitted to having sexual relations with a student.

Michael Kydd, president of the Merit Contractors Association of Nova Scotia, said he had been teaching two courses at the university last October when he entered into a consensual relationship with one of his female students, aged 38.

"I expect my career to be ruined," Kydd told reporters in his lawyer's Dartmouth, N.S., office on Thursday.

Kydd said he decided to come clean after learning that news of the school's pending investigation had reached the media earlier in the day.

He explained he had been separated from his wife at the time of the affair and had sex with the woman twice, afterward exchanging sexually explicit pictures with her.

Earlier Thursday, university president Ramona Lumpkin said she had personally met with the student on Dec. 23 to discuss the matter and within four working days the student decided to move forward with a formal complaint.

Lumpkin refused to disclose any more details on the case, only saying administration had notified the instructor on Wednesday he was being removed from the classroom with pay.

Kydd told reporters on Thursday that after being informed of his suspension and the pending investigation, he decided to resign.

"I accept responsibility for the serious error in judgment that I have made," he explained. "I say sorry to my wife, to my two children ... for letting them down," he said.

Conduct

Michael Kydd denied having given the woman any boost in her grades but admitted entering a grade for her and other students she was working with in a group project for an exam that they had not written, saying that "probably" violates university rules.

Parsons' dad defends decision to share photo

The father of Rehteah Parsons says he had nothing to gain by sharing one of the explicit photos a part-time instructor at Mount Saint Vincent University allegedly sent his student.

Glen Canning said he has been meeting with a 38-year-old student for the past three weeks. She is said to have been in a sexual relationship with one of her former professors, Michael Kydd, last October.

Canning explained the woman asked him to share a photo of Kydd online because she feels frustrated with the university's handling of the situation. Canning shared the sexually explicit photo Thursday morning through Twitter.

"She entered into something with him — initiated consensually, but it turned into something else," Canning said.

The woman feels ashamed about the relationship, said Canning, who explained that when she ended her involvement with Kydd, he threatened that she would be blamed or even expelled.

"(Kydd) knew that this was inappropriate and did it anyway," Canning said.

STEPHANIE TAYLOR/METRO

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Jian Ghomeshi, left, and his lawyer Marie Henein arrive at court in Toronto Thursday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

From Cosby to Ghomeshi in a day

Fallen from grace.
Ontario sees two tainted entertainment legends face public scrutiny in less than 24 hours

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
Metro in Toronto

From one infamous sex-crime suspect to another, in less than 24 hours.

A defiant Bill Cosby soaked up roaring applause Wednesday at a southern Ontario theatre, despite three new allegations that bring the total against him to 27.

The next morning and a mere 100 kilometres away, Jian Ghomeshi took his seat in a downtown Toronto court to face three more charges of sexual assault.

Two formerly beloved celebrities in the midst of ugly downfalls.

Ghomeshi followed dutifully Thursday as police and his lawyers strong-armed a path through a crush of reporters, cameras thrust at his face.

Blank-faced, puffy under the eyes, hair neatly combed, he raised his arms as an officer brushed a metal detector over his light-grey suit.

A rare sighting, as one reporter said, of a man who used to be everywhere in Toronto.

"I lost the bet," remarked one man as he rode the elevator to the courtroom. "I bet he wouldn't come."

Few expected Ghomeshi to show for the court date, a surprise explained when the new charges were laid: He had to sign a new bail agreement forbidding him from contacting the three new women pressing charges.

Inside Courtroom 508, Ghomeshi sat beside his lawyers, slightly hunched. While his lawyers talked, he held a faraway gaze.

Coincidentally, a floor below, activists were calling for the city to create a 24-hour drop-in centre for women and trans people, many wearing T-shirts reading, "Stop the violence against women."

"We're here at the same time as Ghomeshi," noted one protester, Zoe Dodd.

Dodd would be in court herself later in the day. She and four other women face mischief charges stemming from a November sit-in at a city housing office. They were demanding that the drop-in centre be opened.

The courthouse protest had cleared by the time Ghomeshi's hearing ended. The media, though, was still there, collapsing around Ghomeshi as his lawyer, Marie Henein, said he would plead not guilty to new charges.

Meanwhile, Cosby was waiting to take the stage in another Ontario city for, he might hope, another night of laughs.

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TIM COLDWELL
Vice President of Corporate Accounts
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Reaction. Charlie Hebdo attack an assault on democracy, Harper says

A terrorist attack against a newspaper in Paris was an assault on democracy, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said Thursday, as he warned that jihadists are at war with anyone who values openness and tolerance.

Harper was speaking publicly for the first time since gunmen stormed the offices of the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo on Wednesday, killing 12 people.

"When a trio of hooded men struck at some of our most cherished democratic principles — freedom of expression, freedom of the press — they assaulted democracy everywhere," said Harper.

The gunmen killed eight journalists, two police officers, a maintenance worker and a visitor. Police in France were searching for two brothers, while a third suspect surrendered.

Charlie Hebdo has a long history viciously lampooning political figures and religions. Its depictions of Islam and the Prophet Muhammad prompted threats against the newspaper and its staff.

The attack prompted rallies in a number of countries, including Canada, that saw attendees hold up pens to support the newspaper and condemn the attack.

"Yesterday, hundreds of thousands of people around the world, and in cities across this country, openly demonstrated that we will not be intimated by jihadist terrorists," Harper said. "Today, I know all Canadians … stand together with the people of France."

Harper drew a connection between the Paris attack and what he described as the "international jihadist movement," including the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

"They have declared war on anybody who does not think and act exactly as they wish they would think and act," said Harper. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

For more coverage of the attack on Charlie Hebdo, see page 18.

Royal Canadian Air Force CF-18 Hornets THE CANADIAN PRESS

Iraq mission. Canada at war with ISIL, Harper says

Canada is at war with the Islamic State and will do what is necessary to eliminate the threat it poses, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said Thursday.

His comments came as the military revealed that CF-18s have carried out another seven attacks in Iraq over the last couple of weeks.

And Harper said the risk is significant.

His use of the word "war" is important because it carries specific legal connotations and the government generally avoided using it during the long campaign against the Taliban in Afghanistan. The word does not appear in the parliamentary motion which authorized the mission in Iraq.

Underscoring that the campaign against extremists in Iraq is a war sets up and reinforces Canada's responsibilities under international law, particularly when it comes to the treatment of any prisoners and in the protection of civilians.

Since Canada joined the campaign in late October, Canadian military officials have said they are confident no civilians have been hurt by CF-18 missions. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Parliament hero

Sergeant-at-Arms now ambassador to Ireland

The man hailed as a hero for stopping an attack on Parliament Hill has been named Canadian ambassador to Ireland.

But in characteristic fashion, Sergeant-at-Arms Kevin Vickers remains humble about the appointment.

Vickers is credited with killing a man who stormed into Centre Block in October after killing a soldier at the National War Memorial. The next day, Vickers was greeted by an impromptu honour guard of MPs and Parliament Hill staff as he led the daily procession back into the House of Commons, where he was given a standing ovation.

"As a Canadian with family on both sides hailing from Ireland, there could be no greater honour," Vickers said of his appointment. "I am humbled by the invitation to serve my country in this way." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Halifax

Two of three deaths in fire ruled homicide

Two of the three people found dead in a house fire in Halifax were homicide victims and a man has been arrested, the RCMP said Thursday. The victims were an 81-year-old man and a 54-year-old woman. The cause of death of another person discovered inside the home is under investigation, RCMP said. A 30-year-old man was arrested Thursday. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Canadian man charged

Judge delays sex tourism trial

The trial has been delayed for a Canadian man accused of travelling to Florida to have sex with someone investigators say he believed was an underage boy. A U.S. judge agreed to delay trial for Rene Roberge of Sherbrooke, Que., until Jan. 26. It had been set to begin Monday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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French police hold nine in hunt for two brothers

Attack on newspaper. Bulletin warns suspects should be considered 'armed and dangerous'

Frightened yet defiant, French residents held a day of mourning Thursday for 12 people slain at a Paris newspaper. French police hunted for the two heavily armed brothers suspected in the massacre, fearing they might strike again.

The two suspects should be considered "armed and dangerous," French police said in a bulletin.

Ninety people have been questioned so far in the investigation, and nine people close to the two suspects — Cherif Kouachi, 32, and his brother Said Kouachi, 34 — were detained for further questioning, officials said.

Authorities extended France's maximum terror alert from Paris to the northern Picardie region, focusing on several towns that might be possible safe havens for the two suspects, Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve told reporters.

President Francois Hollande — joined by residents, tourists and Muslim leaders — called for tolerance after the country's worst terrorist attack in decades.

At noon, the Paris metro came to a standstill and a crowd fell silent near Notre Dame cathedral to honour Wednesday's victims.

"France has been struck directly in the heart of its capital, in a place where the spirit of liberty — and thus of resistance — breathed freely," Hollande said.

France's prime minister said the possibility of a new attack "is our main concern" and announced several overnight arrests. Tensions ran high in Paris, where 800 extra police patrolled schools, places of worship and transit hubs. Britain increased its security checks at ports and borders.

The satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo had caricatured the Prophet Muhammad, and witnesses said the attackers claimed allegiance to al-Qaida in Yemen.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kouachi brothers

Cherif Kouachi, 32.

- The younger brother was a ladies' man who belted out rap lyrics before the words of a radical preacher persuaded him to book a flight to Syria to wage holy war.

Said Kouachi, 34.

- Less is known about his elder sibling, except that his ID card was found in the getaway car used by the gunmen in the newspaper-office massacre.

Armed French policeman patrol in Fleury, north of Paris, France, on Thursday. THIBAULT CAMUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Islamization' of Europe

Fear feeds right-wing rhetoric

A day after terror struck Paris, Europe's far-right and anti-immigrant parties pressed home the message that has fueled their resurgence: the continent's rising numbers of Muslims are dangerous.

Populist movements warning of the "Islamization" of Europe have been gaining ground in small countries like Denmark and large ones like Britain, Germany and France. The attack on satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo could win more supporters to their cause.

Fears of precisely the kind of commando-style attack that struck the newspaper on Wednesday, killing 12 people, have risen sharply in recent months as home-grown fighters return from Syria and Iraq. Such warnings have been aired across the political spectrum, but the anti-immigrant parties have been at the forefront.

Now the surreal scenes of carnage on a quiet Parisian street are likely to feed into the arguments of right-wing forces that have been the loudest in declaring Islam to be incompatible with Western values. There are concerns that more mainstream Europeans will be pulled into their orbit and that mainstream parties will be tempted to parrot the hard-line rhetoric.

Journalist killings, threat to free expression on rise

The attack at Charlie Hebdo is a painful reminder that free expression — and the people who act as conduits — is under threat every day, everywhere, the head of a Canadian journalism association says.

Last year was one of the worst in history, as extremist groups started killing journalists as a public-relations tool, said Tom Henheffer, executive director of Canadian Journalists for Free Expression. Sixty-six lost their lives worldwide in 2014, either in conflict zones or elsewhere, according to Reporters Without Borders.

This year is off to an even worse start, with eight journalists among the 12 killed in the Charlie Hebdo attack — playing out in a city that typically would be considered safe.

"This Paris attack was on a higher scale when it comes to co-ordination and planning and the number of people killed," he said. "It just goes beyond anything that we've seen before. It's absolutely terrible."

Henheffer said such attacks are extremely rare in Canada and risks for journalists are very low — but attacks do happen.

Tara Singh Hayer, for example, was murdered in 1998 in Vancouver for speaking out against extremism in Sikh culture. In 2000, crime reporter Michel Auger was shot six times in the back in Montreal for his coverage of biker gangs.

Brian Smith, a Toronto sportscaster, was gunned down in a parking lot in 1995 by someone who reportedly held a grudge against the media.

The lower risk in Canada can be attributed to the country's history of tolerance, multiculturalism and integration and the media being "a little more polite and a little more culturally sensitive," Henheffer said.

GILBERT NGABO/METRO IN TORONTO

Journalists killed

365

Journalists killed around the world since 2010. Source: Reporters Without Borders

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Sri Lanka's president concedes defeat in bid for third term in office

Friend-turned-foe. Election monitors have expressed concerns that some voters were prevented from casting ballots in Tamil areas

Former Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa arrives to cast his vote for president elections on Thursday at a polling station in Tangalle, about 220 kilometers south of Colombo, Sri Lanka. PRADEEP DILRUCKSHANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa has conceded defeat in his bid for a third term in office, his spokesman said Friday.

Rajapaska has bowed to the people's decision and left Temple Trees, his official residence, said Wijeyanda Herath, his media secretary.

In a result unthinkable just weeks ago, Rajapaksa lost to his former friend and health minister, Maithripala Sirisena, who defected from the ruling party and turned the election into a referendum on the president and the enormous power he wields over the island nation of 21 million.

Elections Commissioner Mahinda Deshapriya said the election was peaceful, although some voters were prevented from casting ballots in the Tamil-dominated north, according to the Center for Monitoring Election Violence.

Until just a few weeks ago, Rajapaksa was widely expected to win his third term in office easily. But that changed suddenly in November when Sirisena split from him, and gathered the support of other defecting lawmakers and many of the country's ethnic minorities, making the election a fierce political battle.

Rajapaksa was still thought to be tough to beat because he controlled the state media, has immense financial resources and is still popular among the Sinhala majority, some of whom see him as a saviour for destroying Tamil Tiger rebels and ending a decades-long civil war in 2009.

But polling was notably strong Thursday in Tamil-dominated areas, where voting had been poor in previous elections. Many Tamils have felt abandoned since the war's end, when Rajapaksa largely ignored Tamil demands to heal the wounds of the fighting and years of ethnic divisions. They were thought to have voted heavily for Sirisena.

Both Sirisena and Rajapaksa are ethnic Sinhalese, who make up about three-quarters of the country.

However, neither has done much to reach out to Tamils, who account for about nine per cent of the population, but Rajapaksa is deeply unpopular in the Tamil community.

Rajapaksa's power grew immensely after he defeated the Tigers. Following his victory in the last election in 2010 he jailed his opponent and used his parliamentary majority to scrap a constitutional two-term limit for the president and give himself the power to appoint judges, top bureaucrats, police officials and military chiefs. He also orchestrated the impeachment of the country's chief justice.

He also installed numerous relatives in top government positions. One brother is a Cabinet minister, another is the speaker of Parliament and a third is the defence secretary. His older son is a member of Parliament and a nephew is a provincial chief minister.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Focus on Tamils

Global focus on Sri Lanka

The wider world was watching the election in case violence should erupt after the results are announced, especially since Pope Francis is scheduled to arrive in the country on Tuesday.

While former Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa's campaign centred around his victory over the Tamils and his work rebuilding the country's infrastructure and economy, his opponent, Maithripala Sirisena, focused on reining in the president's expanding powers. He also accused Rajapaksa of corruption, a charge the president denies.

The economy has grown quickly in recent years, fed by enormous construction projects, many built with Chinese investment money. But Sri Lanka still has a large underclass, many of whom are frustrated at being left out.

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Netflix crackdown talk sparks debate on ethics of unblocking

Studios not happy. But one observer feels the practice is not having an adverse effect on rights holders

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro in Toronto

In case you haven't heard, Canadians are crossing the digital border in droves and streaming U.S. content from Netflix. Most of us just want to watch our favourite shows but do we really know what's at stake when we unblock ourselves?

Hardly a new issue — a July report suggested one-third of Canadian viewers were already masking their IP addresses in order to access Netflix's American library — unblocking made headlines this week after reports that the service was cracking down on the practice.

Netflix has dismissed the rumours, saying nothing about its policies has changed. However, regardless of their veracity, the reports have sparked a debate about the merits — and ethics — of circumventing regional restrictions online.

The issue stems from the licensing agreements Netflix negotiates with rights holders and media studios. While Netflix is a global company, the right to show certain content remains tied to geography.

"Rights holders have licensed their work to be streamed by Netflix in a particular country, and the assumption is that if Netflix wants to make it available in another country, then they should be paying for that," said Michael Geist, a law professor at the University of Ottawa.

Netflix is notoriously secretive about its metrics, but some in the entertainment business worry unblocking makes their content appear less valuable than it is. Canadian users disguised as Americans could be watching hours of Trailer Park Boys, for example, but Netflix may not see the show as popular among its Canadian audience and could even choose to cancel it.

While Netflix's terms of service forbid accessing content "anywhere other than within the country or location authorized by Netflix," industry observers have accused the streaming service of turning a blind eye to customers who log in from Toronto one minute and Seattle the next.

"Unless the backlash from rights holders reaches the point that they're unwilling to license to them, it's not clear to me that there's a huge downside for Netflix," Geist said, noting the site can attract more customers by tacitly offering their entire catalogue to anyone savvy enough to make a few Google searches.

While some studios have complained about unblocking, Geist doesn't believe the practice is having an adverse effect on rights holders.

"For the most part, it's a case where consumers are paying for something, Netflix is being paid and content providers are being paid," he said.

In Canada, Bell and Rogers are launching competing services to Netflix, and the debate around unblocking could heat up if they decide Netflix's lax enforcement constitutes unfair competition.

"They might think they have a better product than Netflix Canada but not Netflix U.S.," Geist said.

However, even the two big telcos could be reluctant to tackle unblocking head-on. Both companies are also Internet service providers and, as Geist observed, they benefit from Netflix customers shelling out for faster downloads and larger data caps.

For Fenwick McKelvey, a communications professor at Concordia University, unblocking is just the latest in a long "cat-and-mouse game" between those who own content and those trying to consume it.

"People have been putting up antennas to get American signals since the invention of radio," he said.

McKelvey said Netflix is also caught between a "download culture," in which users are accustomed to finding content they want through piracy, and more established business models.

The struggle for Netflix, then, is to be able to offer a legitimate service at a price that can compete with file-sharing.

"There's a compromise trying to be struck, and Netflix is trying to become the vehicle of that compromise," McKelvey said. "They're saying that if you pay $8 a month, then everyone's happy."

One-third of Canadian viewers surveyed last year admitted masking their IP addresses to access Netflix's American content. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

Quoted

"Netflix could just easily ban people with a Canadian account from connecting to its American library. The real question is how much effort is Netflix really putting into this."

Fenwick McKelvey, Concordia University

A brief history of piracy and unblocking

Cable pirates

In 1960s Canada, so-called satellite pirates performed their own version of unblocking, creating reception antennae and re-transmitting U.S. television broadcasts via cable, often for a fee.

Concert bootlegs

Throughout the late 1960s and '70s, bootleg concert recordings helped launch the careers of numerous rock-and-roll acts, including Bob Dylan and the Grateful Dead.

Home taping

"Home taping is killing music" was the slogan of a 1980s anti-piracy campaign by the British Phonographic Industry. Widely parodied, the campaign prompted the U.K. band Bow Wow Wow to release a cassette single with an empty side designed to record their own music off the radio.

Software piracy

Concerned by users illegally copying software programs, the Software Publishers Association launched a campaign called "Don't Copy that Floppy" in 1992. The unintentionally hilarious video was rediscovered in the 2000s and became a viral sensation on YouTube.

Music piracy

Launched in 1999, the Napster file-sharing service was short-lived but paved the way for the widespread online piracy that continues today.

VOICES

THAT JOKE ISN'T FUNNY ANY MORE (AND NEVER WAS)

THE KOHLER REPORT
By Rebecca Kohler

"Penis: the tool used to wean and convert lesbians and virgins into useful, productive members of society." No, this is not the Merriam-Webster definition of penis, it is a "joke" found on the "Class of DDS 2015 Gentlemen" Facebook page.

If you're not 100 per cent sure what's going on with the Dalhousie dentistry student fiasco, here it is in brief: thirteen fourth-year dentistry students belonged to a private Facebook group. On said page, the 13 students discussed an array of topics from exams to stress to chloroforming their female classmates. So … wait, what? Yeah. There were also polls about which female classmates the other members would like to "hate f—," etc.

Anyway, so these guys went about their business on this invitation-only Facebook page saying a bunch of misogynistic things, then someone leaked it, and now all hell has broken loose.

I am really, really torn on this issue. I, too, have said stupid things in my lifetime. I, too, am a member of a private Facebook group, and while it's mostly just me and my girlfriends confessing that we like Taylor Swift and talking about whether or not we think Adnan from Serial did it, I'm sure I've said things in there I wouldn't want other people to see.

So, on one hand, I respect the idea that private thoughts can be harmless.

On the other hand, I'm really upset that the "gentlemen" would even want to joke this way in private. If they had polls about which classmate was hottest or who had the prettiest eyes, that could still be deemed as sexist, but it wouldn't be disturbing.

When group members discussed the possibility that there had been a leak, one of them posted, "I also want to know I can say whoever I want to HATEF— and know some guy isn't going to go running and tell the girls." Why do you want to "hate f—" anyone? What does that even mean, and whatever happened to french kissing? Could we start there and then find out if we hate each other, as in a normal relationship?

When I first heard about this case, I was like, "OK, so they're idiots; that doesn't mean they should be expelled." But the more I read and thought — incidentally, I do a lot of thinking while I brush my teeth — the angrier I got.

The current plan of action at Dalhousie is to resolve the situation through restorative justice, meaning everyone talks it out and then awkwardly hugs or something. But imagine being one of the women mentioned in the posts and having to sit across from one of the "gentlemen" as he apologized to you. Aside from that experience feeling like an emotional root canal, would you really believe that a man who suggests having sex with a women until his "stress is relieved or the girl is unconscious" is going to apologize and mean it? I'd bet a gold tooth that as soon as the guy's out of there, he'll find a private place to tell one of his buddies how good your tits looked while he was expressing his remorse.

But if restorative justice doesn't cut it, what does? Should they all be expelled? Well, did they ALL post? Did they ALL say terrible things? Even if they said those things, does it warrant expulsion? Part of me thinks yes, if only to set an example. Women don't deserve to be thought of or spoken about that way just for existing. WHEN IS THAT GOING TO SINK IN? Another part thinks no, because maybe that will fuel the fire amongst other sexist idiots: "See what those bitch dentistry students did?"

As a comedian, I believe that any and every topic is open for joke fodder as long as it's really funny and makes a good point that helps move society forward. Aside from the chauvinism, the most shameful aspect of the Facebook-page jokes is the fact that they're hacky and derivative — they look like they were made by a sociopath in 1950. Let's hope their dental practices are more progressive than their senses of humour.

Maybe we could save ourselves some pain by addressing these issues from the get-go. Start teaching first-graders that boys and girls are different, but both are good, and why. Then keep teaching that in second grade and third and....

Because, while the DDS 2015 Gentlemen have spent the past 3-1/2 years learning how to clean teeth and deal with halitosis, they spent the previous 25 learning from someone, somewhere, that women don't deserve the same respect as men.

Rebecca Kohler is a stand-up comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter @becca_kohler

Happy face/Sad face

From dashed romantic notions to officers wearing diapers, Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week:

RYAN GOSLING IS A LIAR

In a big blow to the notion that romance as depicted by Hollywood has anything to do with reality, bestselling author and screenwriter Nicholas Sparks has announced he is separating from his wife of 25 years. Sparks is best known for writing romantic drama The Notebook, a.k.a. the main reason why men resent Ryan Gosling (remember this scene below? *sigh*).

MOOSE STEWARDS

Tuques off to three men who saved a moose that had been buried by an avalanche in Alaska. The Good Samaritans were snowmobiling when they saw a snout sticking out of the snow and realized an animal was buried alive. After 10 minutes of digging they were able to free the moose, which appeared unharmed and ran off.

COUNTERFEIT FAIL

Perhaps the jaw-dropper here isn't that someone had the gall to photocopy two sides of a 20-pound note and staple it together. The jaw-dropper here is that a shopkeeper in Manchester accepted it as currency. It was handed over to police, who have been tight-lipped about naming the shop to save it the ridicule.

WE WON! WOOHOO!

High-fives all around for Canada's junior men's hockey team, which brought the gold medal back to Canada this week after a five-year hiatus. Canada beat Russia 5-4 in Toronto.

PATRON SAINT OF BLADDERS NEEDED

What would Jesus do? We're going to go ahead and assume he would NOT make 2,000 traffic officers wear diapers on the job while Pope Francis visits the Philippines. While authorities assure the directive was "well-received" by staff, we think this is one "golden rule" that's meant to be broken.

metro

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Led by a higher power to play King

Divine casting. British actor David Oyelowo, who stars as the civil rights leader in Selma, had a premonition he would get the role

"I like to think of myself as a good actor," says David Oyelowo, "but Martin Luther King, I ain't."

The 38-year-old British actor plays the venerated civil rights leader in Selma, a dramatic retelling of King's 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery voting rights march.

It's a stirring performance that has already earned him a Golden Globe nomination as best actor in a drama. He admits he wasn't a natural fit for the part — "I would never have cast me in this role, a British actor, having not done much work in Hollywood" — but the film's producer Oprah Winfrey (who also has a heart-wrenching cameo) said, "I can see King in you."

The actor, best known for his work on the British TV show MI-5, told an audience at the AFI he always felt like he'd play King at some point. "Very soon after my wife and I moved to this country, I was told from above that I would play this role on the 24th of July, 2007. I couldn't believe it, so I wrote it down."

With help from his higher power as well as Oprah, director Ava DuVernay, research and a weight gain of 30 pounds — eat lasagna late at night, he advises — Oyelowo found the character and won the blessing of King's daughter Bernice. "It was huge for me to bridge that gap between the production and the family," Oyelowo told The Daily Beast.

One of Bernice's brothers, Martin Luther King III, has called Selma, "a very emotional experience," and hopes that the film's success will spur Hollywood interest in his father's life, work and legacy.

Steven Spielberg is reportedly working on a biopic and a new German film called Schwarzkopf BRD features King in a study of racial politics in Berlin.

In more traditional films, the civil rights leader has been portrayed by everyone from Paul Winfield, who earned an Emmy nomination for his performance in King, a three-hour TV miniseries, to Jeffrey Wright in Boycott, to son Dexter King in The Rosa Parks Story.

Dexter and his sister Yolanda collaborated with filmmakers Rob Smiley and Vincenzo Trippetti on the most unique retelling of their father's life. Combining animation and historical footage, Our Friend, Martin is a time-travel story about a student sent back in time to meet King at significant moments in his life. The hour-long film is difficult to find but features wonderful vocal performances from Angela Bassett, LeVar Burton, Danny Glover, Oprah Winfrey, Whoopi Goldberg and Dexter as his father at age 34.

David Oyelowo, centre, as Martin Luther King in the new drama Selma, which focuses on a 1965 march that was one of the biggest events in the civil rights movement. ATSUSHI NISHIJIMA/PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Quoted

"Very soon after my wife and I moved to this country, I was told from above that I would play this role ... I couldn't believe it, so I wrote it down." David Oyelowo

In Review

RICHARD CROUSE

Selma

Director. Ava DuVernay

Stars. David Oyelowo, Carmen Ejogo, Tim Roth

Selma is a snapshot of a particular time. Instead of trying to cover the width and breadth of Martin Luther King's life and accomplishments, director Ava DuVernay hones the story down to one seminal event: King's march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala. It's an effective and uncluttered approach that brings one of the biggest events of the civil rights movement into sharp focus. The movie is helmed by a gobsmackingly good performance from David Oyelowo as King. He's righteous and fiery, but plays King like a man, not an emblem. It is career-making work ably buttressed by supporting players Henry G. Sanders, Oprah Winfrey and Tom Wilkinson.

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Golden Globes shoulda, woulda, coulda

Awards predictions are dumb. Except when screamingly obvious, no one has a clue what will win, and such coverage is blatant clickbait. Not that mere opinion pieces are much more useful, but at least you get to talk about the quality of people's work — and point to those who may be flying under the radar. Metro's Matt Prigge, Ned Ehrbar and Lisa Weidenfeld pick who/what they hope will win Golden Globes this Sunday, and who/what would win out of those not nominated

SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Best actress, drama

Should win: Julianne Moore, Still Alice Oh man, is this the saddest movie: one where Moore at her most personable suffers mental deterioration via early Alzheimer's.
Should have been nominated: Scarlett Johansson, Under the Skin ScarJo was definitely on fire this year, but she was never more movie star-ish and fearless as she was a chillingly blank-faced alien seductress. – M.P.

Best actor, drama

Should win: Jake Gyllenhaal, Nightcrawler There's a lot of strong competition here, but the one-time Donnie Darko impresses most for his chilling (and very, very funny) embodiment of a driven freelancer sociopath.
Should have been nominated: John Lithgow, Love is Strange Atypically cast as recognizably human, the great ham and villain used very little to convey deep recesses of pain and longing as his character was separated from his husband (Alfred Molina). – M.P.

Best actor, comedy or musical

Should win: Ralph Fiennes, The Grand Budapest Hotel Sure, everyone's all about Michael Keaton in Birdman, but Fiennes' finicky, philandering concierge easily outshines him.
Should have been nominated: Jesse Eisenberg, The Double Maybe it's not fair competition, since he technically plays two roles, but Eisenberg deserves some recognition for this gem — and for the realization that he's a lot more attractive as a jerk. – N.E.

Best picture, comedy or musical

Should win: Birdman I'm not entirely sold on whether it's a comedy or not, but it's definitely a feat and well worth celebrating.
Should've been nominated: Frank It's sort of a musical and sort of a comedy and completely awesome. The lack of Michael Fassbender giant papier-mâché head in more "best of 2014" lists is a crime against the arts and crafts community and cinephiles everywhere. — N.E.

Best actress, comedy or musical

Should win: Emily Blunt, Into the Woods In an overstuffed ensemble that includes Meryl Streep, Blunt more than holds her own. And it gives me a chance to mention her equally awesome work in Edge of Tomorrow. You really should see Edge of Tomorrow.
Should have been nominated: Jenny Slate, Obvious Child Slate should have gotten some Globes love just for starring in an abortion comedy. Isn't that like catnip to the Hollywood Foreign Press? Whatever, she's wonderful in it. – N.E.

Best TV series, drama

Should win: The Good Wife Procedurals are not supposed to evolve too much as they age. Luckily, this is not a concept this show is familiar with. It's still one of the best dramas on TV, and its characters continue to grow in organic, compelling ways.
Should have been nominated: The Americans Yep, this is on the list twice for "should have beens." We're sorry (but not really), we're just still struggling with the Hollywood Foreign Press nominating Downton Abbey instead of it. – L.W.

Best actress in a TV series, drama

Should win: Viola Davis, How to Get Away with Murder Look, if your show transforms Thursday night TV, we think you deserve some credit for it. Plus, we're pretty sure Viola Davis is never not fantastic.
Should have been nominated: Tatiana Maslany, Orphan Black Which role out of the near-dozen that she plays on the show is she best in? All of them. Awards shows need to get over their distaste of so-called "genre" shows. – L.W.

Best actor in a TV series, drama

Should win: Dominic West, The Affair Did you know the Emmys and Golden Globes never recognized West for The Wire? Let's fix that. His performance in this mystery/thriller/drama/romance is a good place to start.
Should have been nominated: Matthew Rhys, The Americans If nothing else, Rhys' wig work is phenomenal. The show skipped the concept of the sophomore slump, and Rhys (and under-recognized co-star Keri Russell) was a big reason why. – L.W.

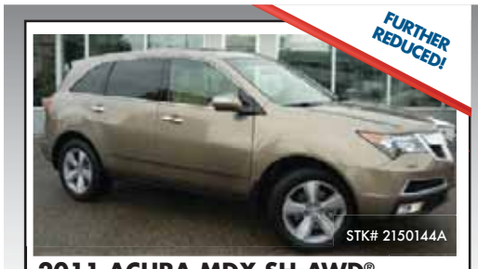
Best actress in a TV series, musical or comedy

Should win: Gina Rodriguez, Jane the Virgin We'd love to see an upset in this category over the more established stars, much like Brooklyn Nine-Nine had last year. And Rodriguez, an unknown before this show, is making a pretty big splash.
Should have been nominated: Kate McKinnon, Saturday Night Live The show has been through some upheaval lately, as longtime stars left, and newcomers had trouble fitting in. But McKinnon is a reliably confident, perpetually offbeat performer, and often the best part of otherwise forgettable episodes. – L.W.

Best actor in a TV series, musical or comedy

Should win: Jeffrey Tambor, Transparent This would be a first: a man winning for playing a woman. But Tambor, an always welcome presence, is doing some of the best work of his career as Maura Pfefferman on the Amazon original.
Should have been nominated: Andre Braugher, Brooklyn Nine-Nine OK, technically, he's a supporting actor on the show, but the Globes doesn't do that award. Braugher is surrounded by a bunch of goofy improvisers, and is still regularly the funniest part of the show, despite his more serious dramatic background. – L.W.

Viola Davis GETTY IMAGES



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Arquette looks back at 12 years of Boyhood

Actress interview. After more than a decade working with the same cast, actress is a little nostalgic

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News in New York

Patricia Arquette and the rest of the cast in Boyhood spent 12 years working on the film, aging in front of the camera. CONTRIBUTED

Patricia Arquette says she isn't used to what has happened with Boyhood. She has her share of cult favourites — True Romance, Lost Highway, Flirting with Disaster, Ed Wood — but they all initially underperformed or worse. Boyhood, however, was a massive critical and commercial darling right out of the gate.

Her turn as a mother to a boy (Ellar Coltrane), filmed over 12 years, even netted her a Golden Globe nomination.

"It really puts a perspective on what movies are usually like," she tells us, chuckling. "Pretty early I learned to let things roll off my back. But I've never experienced anything like this. It's a really nice change!" As the film comes out on Blu-ray and DVD — while still playing at some theatres, mind you — Arquette talked to us about the film's making and not yet letting go of a project that dominated a significant chunk of her life.

It must be strange that it's finally over. How much do you miss everyone?
We've been promoting this pretty heavily since July, so I've seen a lot of those guys. I've probably seen them more this year than I saw them any other year. It doesn't completely feel like it's over.

How loose did writer-director Richard Linklater keep the script?
In the first conversation I had with him, he laid out most of the major parts of the movie's anatomy. By the second year he had the last shot planned out. He left enough space to see what the world became. There were so many variables about what happened on Earth or where the kids went. What if Ellar became a jock? That would take the film in a slightly different territory. But he had most of it mapped out. He knew there was going to be a girlfriend. But he waited. One year he almost shot that, but then Ellar hadn't had a girlfriend yet. He wanted to wait until he had a girlfriend in real life.

Your character's final scene in the film, when Ellar's character heads for college, is a very gutting realization of her own time passing.
I feel like when you grow a human in your body, especially when it's your last baby, it really is hard to imagine a life where you're not going to be a mom. It's such a critical part of who you are, if you're good at it at all. Of course it all turns out fine in the end because they call you a week later and say they forgot to pack socks. But at the moment it seems like, "Who am I really if I'm not a mom?"

You watched Ellar as well as Lorelai Linklater grow up. Do you feel maternal towards them?
Both those kids have really great parents, so I can't say it's parental. It's more like an aunt. I was just amazed by them and impressed by who they were as people and who they were becoming.

It's pretty incredible that this film was able to stay on the DL for most of its production. Most people only found out about it shortly before it was playing film festivals.
Rick said not to say anything, but then Ethan (Hawke) said something and Rick said, "Let's not talk about this too much, because what if it doesn't work out?" I wouldn't talk about it a lot in the press, but I did a little bit. But when I would mention it they really weren't interested. (Laughs) Their eyes would glaze over. I'd say it was about this little boy growing up and they'd say, "Good luck with that." (Laughs) I was like, what's wrong with these people?

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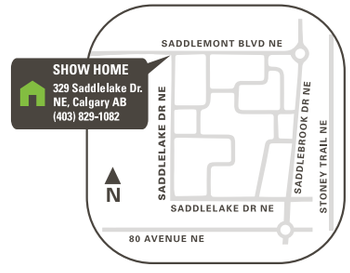

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Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day (G) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:15-7:20
The Book of Life (G) Fri-Thu 1:20-6:45
The Boxtrolls (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-3:50
Dolphin Tale 2 (G) Fri-Thu 12:55
Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri-Thu 4:05-6:50-10:05
The Equalizer (14A) Fri-Thu 9:45
Fury (14A) Fri-Thu 1-3:55-6:55-9:40
Gone Girl (18A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-7-9:25
Guardians of the Galaxy (PG) Fri-Thu 4:10-7:05-9:50
The Homesman (STC) Fri-Thu 1:10
The Interview (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:20-7:30-10
John Wick (14A) Fri-Thu 4-9:35
The Judge (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:45-6:50-9:25
St. Vincent (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:20-7:25-9:50
Whiplash (14A) Fri-Thu 7:10-9:45

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The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Sat 11
American Sniper (14A) Thu 7-9:55
Annie (G) Fri-Sun 1-3:55-6:45-9:50 Mon-Wed 1:55-4:45-7:35-10:25 Thu 1:55-4:45
Big Hero 6 (G) Fri 1:50 Sat 11:10-1:50 Sun 1:50 Mon-Thu 1:35
Big Hero 6 3D (G) Fri-Sun 4:30-7:10 Mon-Tue 4:15-6:55 Wed 4:15 Thu 4:15-6:55
Blackhat (STC) No Passes Thu 9:30
City Lights (STC) Sun 12:55 Wed 7
The Gambler (14A) Fri-Sun 10 Mon-Wed 9:50
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Fri-Sun 12-3:15-6:30 Mon-Thu 3:15-6:30
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:35-6:50-9:45-10:05 Mon-Thu 3:35-6:50-9:45-10:05
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sat 1:20-4:20-7:30-10:25 Sun 4:20-7:30-10:25 Mon-Thu 1:40-4:35-7:30-10:25
The Imitation Game (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:05-7:15-10:10 Mon-Tue 1:45-4:30-7:15-10 Wed 4:30-7:15-10 Thu 1:45-4:30-7:15-10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:30
Interstellar (PG) Fri-Wed 6:05-9:40
Into the Woods (STC) Fri-Sun 1:25-4:25-7:20-10:15 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:25-7:20-10:15
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) Fri 2-4:35-7:05-9:35 Sat 11:30-2-4:35-7:05-9:35 Sun 2-4:35-7:05-9:35 Mon-Thu 2-4:40-7:05-9:35
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri 1:30 Sat 11:15-1:30 Sun-Thu 1:30
Penguins of Madagascar 3D (G) Fri-Thu 3:45
Taken 3 (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 2:25-5:05-7:45-10:30 No Passes Mon-Tue 2:25-5:05-7:50-10:30 No Passes Wed 5:05-7:50-10:30 No Passes Thu 2:25-5:05-7:50-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1:30
Unbroken (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-3:20-6:40-9:55 Mon-Thu 3:20-6:45-10:10
The Wedding Ringer (14A) Thu 7:35-10:25
The Woman in Black 2: Angel of Death (14A) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:35-5:10-7:40-10:20 Mon-Thu 2:35-5:10-7:40-10:20

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Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (14A) Fri 6:30-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:50-6:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 6-9
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) Fri 6:40-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:30-6:40-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:30
The Imitation Game (PG) Fri 7-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:50-4:10-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:20
Inherent Vice (18A) No Passes Fri 6:50-10 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:30-3:40-6:50-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:35-8:40
The Theory of Everything (G) Fri 7:10-10:10 Sat-Sun 1-4-7:10-10:10 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:50
Wild (14A) Fri 7:20-10:20 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:20-7:20-10:20 Mon-Thu 6:10-9:10

Landmark Cinemas 16 Country Hills, 388 Country Hills Blvd

American Sniper (14A) Thu 7-10
Annie (G) Fri 1:40-4:30-7:30-10:15 Sat 1:40 Sun 1:40-4:30-7:30-10:15 Mon-Wed 4:30-7:30-10:15 Thu 3-6:30 Sat 4:30-7:30-10:15
Blackhat (STC) Thu 9:45
Exodus: Gods and Kings (PG) Fri 9 Sat-Sun 10:50-9 Mon-Wed 9
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Fri 12:30-3:45 Sat 10:30-12:30 Sun 10:30 Mon-Thu 3:45 Sat 3:45 Sun 12:30-3:45
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies -- An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Sun 12-3:15-6:30-9:55 Mon-Thu 3:15-6:30-9:55
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The Imitation Game (PG) Fri 1:30-4:20-7:45-10:25 Sat-Sun 10:50-1:30-4:20-7:45-10:25 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:45-10:25

Landmark Cinemas 16 Country Hills, 388 Country Hills Blvd

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PK (PG) Fri-Sun 12:05-5-9:10 Mon-Thu 5-9:10
Selma (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:50-6:50-9:45 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:50-9:45
Shakespeare's Globe on Screen: The Tempest (STC) Sat 11
Taken 3 (14A) Fri-Sun 1-4-7:15-10 Mon-Thu 4-7:15-10 Wed 1
Tevar (STC) Fri-Sun 2-6-9:20 Mon-Thu 6-9:20
Unbroken (PG) Fri 12:10-3:20-6:40-9:50 Sat-Sun 10:55-12:10-3:20-6:40-9:50 Mon-Thu 3:20-6:40-9:50
The Wedding Ringer (14A) Thu 7-9:30
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The Woman in Black: Angel of Death (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-4:50-8-10:30 Mon-Thu 4:50-8-10:30

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American Sniper (14A) Thu 7-10:10
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The Imitation Game (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-4:15-7:15-10:20
Into the Woods (STC) Fri-Thu 12-3:30-6:45-9:50
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Shakespeare's Globe on Screen: The Tempest (STC) Sat 11
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Globe Cinema, 617-8 Avenue

50/50 (14A) Thu 6:30
Point and Shoot (14A) Fri 7:10-9 Sat 1:10-3-7:10-9 Sun 1:10-7:10-9 Mon-Wed 7:10-9 Thu 9
Zero Motivation (STC) Fri 7-9:10 Sat 1-7-9:10 Sun 3:10-7-9:10 Mon-Wed 7-9:10 Thu 7

Scotiabank Chinook 6455 MacLeod Trail

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Sat 11
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Annie (G) Fri-Wed 1:05-4:05-7:10-10:05 Thu 4:05 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Big Eyes (PG) Fri-Wed 9:40
Big Hero 6 (G) Fri-Wed 1:30 Thu 12:30
Big Hero 6 3D (G) Fri-Tue 4:30-7:25 Wed 4:30 Thu 3:30-6:25
Blackhat (STC) No Passes Thu 9:30
City Lights (STC) Sun 12:55 Wed 7
Exodus: Gods and Kings (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-7:45
Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 4:20
The Gambler (14A) Fri-Sat 1:40-4:25-7:30-10:10 Sun 4:25-7:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 1:40-4:25-7:30-10:10
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Fri-Thu 1:45-5:30-9
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Horrible Bosses 2 (14A) Fri-Wed 10:15
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4:20-7:25-10:25
The Imitation Game (PG) Fri 1:10-4:05-7-9:50 Sat 1:45-4:35-7:30-10:20 Sun-Thu 1:10-4:05-7-9:50
Interstellar (PG) Fri-Thu 2-6-9:45
Into the Woods (STC) Fri-Thu 12:55-4-7:05-10:05
The Metropolitan Opera: Il Barbiere Di Siviglia Encore (STC) Sat 9:55
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) Fri-Wed 12:35-3:50-6:50-9:45 Thu 4-6:50-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
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The Wedding Ringer (14A) Thu 7:15-9:50
The Woman in Black 2: Angel of Death (14A) Fri-Thu 1:35-4:30-7:15-10

The Woman in Black 2: Angel of Death CONTRIBUTED

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The Interview (14A) Fri 7-9:15 Sat 2-4:30-7-9:30 Sun 9 Mon-Tue 7-9:15 Wed 7 Thu 9:15

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The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Sat 11
American Sniper (14A) Thu 7-10:10
Annie (G) Fri-Sat 12:40-3:30-7-9:55 Sun-Wed 1:20-4:10-7-9:50 Thu 1:20-4:10
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The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 2-6-9:20-9:45 Sun-Thu 1:35-4:50-8:10-9:35
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Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) Fri-Sat 12:50-3:40-6:55-9:25 Sun-Thu 1:05-3:35-6:55-9:25
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Tevar (STC) Fri-Sat 2:45-6:15-10:05 Sun-Thu 2:10-6:15-9:40
Unbroken (PG) Fri-Sat 12:10-3:20-6:35-9:50 Sun-Thu 3:10-6:35-9:45
The Wedding Ringer (14A) Thu 7:10-9:55
The Woman in Black 2: Angel of Death (14A) Fri-Sat 1:45-4:30-7:45-10:20 Sun-Thu 1:45-4:30-7:30-10

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Big Hero 6 (G) Fri-Sun 12:30 Mon-Thu 4
Big Hero 6 3D (G) Fri-Sun 3:25 Mon-Thu 6:35
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Fri-Sun 3:40 Mon-Thu 4:25
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The Imitation Game (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:55-9:45 Mon-Thu 4-6:40-9:20
Inherent Vice (18A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:15-3:35-6:55-10:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:20-8:45
Into the Woods (STC) Fri-Sat 1-4:05-7:05-10:05 Sun 7:05-10:05 Mon-Thu 5-8:10 Sun 1-4:05
The Metropolitan Opera: Il Barbiere Di Siviglia Encore (STC) Mon 6:30
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:20-6:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 4:20-6:50-9:15
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri-Sun 12:55 Mon-Thu 4:05
Penguins of Madagascar 3D (G) Fri-Sun 3:35-6:35 Tue-Thu 6:20
Selma (PG) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:30-6:45-9:50 Mon-Thu 4:40-8:20
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The Theory of Everything (G) Fri-Sun 9:40 Tue-Thu 9:10
Unbroken (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:55-7:15-10:25 Mon-Thu 5:05-8:30

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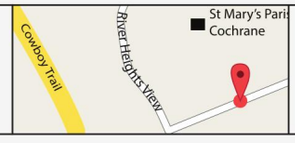

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Ratings: *Certified Fresh:* *Fresh:* *Rotten:* *Audience response:* *Audience anticipation for the film:* +

Comedy

The Wedding Ringer

Director. Jeremy Garelick

Stars. Josh Gad, Kevin Hart

Doug Harris (Josh Gad) is a loveable but socially awkward groom-to-be with a problem: he has no best man. With less than two weeks to go until he marries the girl of his dreams (Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting), Doug is referred to Jimmy Callahan (Kevin Hart), owner and CEO of Best Man, Inc., a company that provides flattering best men for socially challenged guys in need.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score

Critics: No reviews yet **Audience:** +93%

Action/Adventure

Taken 3

Director. Olivier Megaton

Stars. Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace

Liam Neeson returns as ex-covert operative Bryan Mills, whose reconciliation with his ex-wife is tragically cut short when she is brutally murdered. Consumed with rage, and framed for the crime, he goes on the run to evade the relentless pursuit of the CIA, FBI and the police. For one last time, Mills must use his "particular set of skills," to track down the real killers.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score

Critics: 31% **Audience:** +96%

Mystery/Drama

Inherent Vice

Director. Paul Thomas Anderson

Stars. Joaquin Phoenix

Inherent Vice is the seventh feature from Paul Thomas Anderson and the first-ever film adaption of a Thomas Pynchon novel. Private eye Doc Sportello's ex-old lady suddenly shows up with a story about her current billionaire boyfriend, and a plot by his wife and her boyfriend to kidnap that billionaire and throw him in a looney bin...well, easy for her to say.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score

Critics: 73% **Audience:** +94%

Musical

Annie

Director. Will Gluck

Stars. Jamie Foxx, Quvenzhane Wallis

A Broadway classic that has delighted audiences for generations comes to the big screen with a new, contemporary vision in. This modern telling captures the magic of the classic characters. Annie, a young, happy foster kid who's also tough enough to make her way on the streets of New York in 2014.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score

Critics: 19% **Audience:** + 86%

Casting. Actress from Arrow joins Affleck-fronted feature The Accountant

Cynthia Addai-Robinson, who plays Amanda Waller on the CW series Arrow, has joined the cast of The Accountant, the upcoming feature from Gavin O'Connor.

The actress will play a Treasury Department analyst, according to Variety, and will share the screen with Ben Affleck, Anna Kendrick (Into the Woods), J.K. Simmons (Whiplash) and Jon Berenthal (The Walking Dead, Fury).

An assassin thriller, The Accountant focuses on a mild-mannered accountant who moonlights as a hit man. Ben Affleck signed on in the title role last October, followed by Kendrick, Simmons and Berenthal the following month.

The feature is due to enter production in the near future, most likely as soon as Affleck wraps up on the set of Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice.

The actor will then return to the director's chair to helm his fourth feature, Live by Night, which is due to open in the U.S. on October 7, 2016.

No release dates have been announced for The Accountant.

AFP

Ben Affleck will start work on The Accountant after wrapping up Batman V Superman.

AFP

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Girls star says steamy sex helps move story forward

Television. As season four debuts Sunday, the four stars discuss the challenges of their evolving characters

Lena Dunham plays Hannah in Girls. HBO

On Sunday night, the girls of Girls return for a fourth season of wayward living in and out of New York.

Premiering at 9 p.m. ET/MT on HBO Canada, the new season finds Jessa (Jemima Kirke) more adrift than ever; Shoshanna (Zosia Mamet) going after her first grown-up job; Marnie (Allison Williams) in yet another ill-advised relationship; and Hannah (Lena Dunham, who is also the series' creator and a writer, producer and director) setting off for the Iowa Writers' Workshop.

The four stars joined us for a chat about 20-something obstacles, make-believe hanky-panky and other issues during a conversation stoked by news the show has been picked up for a fifth season.

"I'm excited," Dunham says. "When you hear a show went for five seasons, it sounds like they really did it! No matter how many more we do after that, if there were five seasons, you think, 'Wow, that show did OK.'"

Mamet suggests the show is even more rewarding now than when they started.

"We've all gotten so close, so we can delve so much deeper," she says. "Every year we're like, 'Who are they gonna be this year? What are they gonna do?' So it's always exciting and challenging."

Dunham enjoys the challenge of advancing the characters each season.

"It's fun to tell the girls at the beginning of the season, 'Here's the basic gist.' And they're like, 'WTF!' And then we get to talk about it.

"I'm excited because Jemima has a scene at the beginning of Episode 9 that I think is the sexiest sex scene that we've ever had."

"So gross!" says Kirke.

"You didn't think it's sexy?" asks Dunham.

"It's cringey," Kirke insists.

Dunham is proud of the fact her co-stars trust her enough to go with the flow.

"The thing I admire so much about them is, everyone rolls with it: 'OK, I'm gonna take a leap of faith.' There are definitely shows where the actors go, 'I'm not gonna do that.' I'm not saying our guys aren't allowed to say that, but we've never heard that from them, because they have so much daring as performers and excitement about just going for it."

"I've just never felt the need to say no to you," explains Mamet. "I know you would never write a scene, sexual or not, for us to play that wasn't essential to the story being moved forward."

"I hope it helps that I'm naked more than anybody," laughs Dunham.

Sunday's premiere features a raunchy scene between Williams and her on-screen boyfriend, played by Ebon Moss-Bachrach.

"You get a snapshot of everything you need to know about Marnie for the entire season from that 12 seconds (more like 20 seconds)," says Williams.

"You see that she's more comfortable than I've been with anyone ever, that most people have been with anyone ever, doing something with this guy we don't think she should be with. He says, 'I love that,' And Marnie says, 'I love you, too.' That's all you need!"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Streaming TV

Charlie Cox AFP

Marvel's Daredevil arriving on Netflix a month early

Marvel's Daredevil series will hit Netflix earlier than expected, on April 10 for U.S. subscribers.

Charlie Cox follows in the footsteps of Ben Affleck in the role of Matt Murdoch, a blind lawyer by day who becomes a superhero with enhanced senses after sundown. Vincent D'Onofrio and Rosario Dawson also star in the drama.

The series will be followed by four others based on Marvel characters: Jessica Jones, Luke Cage, Iron Fist and the Defenders.

Three other new series are coming soon to Netflix.

Premiering Jan. 20 is Bloodline, a family drama with Kyle Chandler, Sam Shepard and Sissy Spacek, among others.

The Tina Fey-produced comedy Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt arrives March 6.

Grace and Frankie, starring Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin and Martin Sheen, launches May 8. The show hails from Marta Kauffman, who created Friends. AFP

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Gossip

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METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Meryl Streep ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Streep defends Crowe's ageist view, Chastain not so much

So that thing Russell Crowe said about older actresses still being able to find work, even if they're honest about their age?

Yeah, naturally, women are reacting.

First, Meryl Streep came out in support of Crowe, saying his words had been "misappropriated," which is a fun word.

"He was talking about himself," Streep said. "I agree with him. It's good to live within the place where you are."

I'm not going to try to unpack that statement because, yikes! But I will challenge Ms. Streep on the assertion that Crowe was talking about himself, since all his quotes were literally about women — including Streep herself, whom he cites as a positive example. So at least her support is understandable.

Less supportive? Jessica Chastain.

While speaking with reporters at the National Board of Review Awards in New York, Chastain didn't mince words.

"Russell keeps getting his foot stuck in his mouth," she said. "There are some incredible actresses in their 50s and 60s that are not getting opportunities in film, and for someone to say that there are plenty of roles for women that age, (that) is not someone who's going to the movie theatre."

You just going to sit there and take that, Russell?

Drake criticizes comedian for spot-on impersonation

Celebrity impressions can be a dicey game for a comedian — especially if the celebrity you're impersonating just happens to be at your show.

Drake swung by the Comedy Store in L.A. this week to take comedian Red Grant to task for his take on the rapper's mannerisms.

"That was like Omarion (and) Chris Brown together s—," Drake said in protest. "That's not me."

Oh man, who wants to be the one to break it to Drake that that's kind of exactly who he is?

Drake

Pit-Lo? J.Pit? PB&J? Or how about Bull-Lope?

Everyone knows the first step to successfully wooing a woman in this modern age is telling anyone who will listen about how much you dig her — and revealing your ideas for a couple nickname.

At least that's what Pitbull has been doing, telling everyone except Jennifer Lopez about how much he digs Jennifer Lopez.

"He's always considered her to be his ideal type — curvy, talented and Latina," a source tells Life & Style, quoting what I assume is on Lopez's business cards.

"He's never made a move because she's always been linked with someone — first Marc Anthony, then Casper Smart. But now he's telling pals that he and J.Lo could be the next Brangelina. He's even come up with their mash-up name: Pit-Lo.

Aim high, buddy.

Jennifer Lopez and Pitbull

Pedro Almodovar

Pedro had a different vision for Brokeback Mountain

Brokeback Mountain is a great film, but before Ang Lee signed on to direct, it was offered to Pedro Almodovar? How weird would that have been?

"They offered me Brokeback Mountain, but I had many doubts. Thinking about it, I don't know if I made a mistake or not," he says. "They promised me total artistic freedom and final cut, but it was a story that was so physical — it's not just that the characters sleep together once — and that has to be there.

"I think Ang Lee went as far as he could, and I like his version very much. But I always imagined it differently and I don't think I would have been able to make it the way I wanted. They wouldn't have let me."

Shia LaBeouf

Shia turns to Sia for a fresh start

It feels weird to write about Shia LaBeouf doing something people actually like, given his tumultuous 2014, yet here we are.

He's starting the New Year off right by teaming up with Sia for her latest video, Elastic Heart, which features him in an emotional interpretive dance with the singer's young Chandelier star dancer, Maddie Ziegler.

Katy Perry

Perry and Mayer patch things up

When she's not prepping extremely public Taylor Swift insults, Katy Perry is apparently rethinking her romantic decisions.

The singer and ex-boyfriend John Mayer sparked reconciliation rumors after a recent dinner resulted in Mayer visiting Perry's L.A. home — until 4 p.m. the next day, according to the Daily News.

If you're worried about how Perry's rumoured current beau, Diplo, is taking all of this, don't be. A source tells Us Weekly that Perry and Diplo were "never serious."

WHAT WOULD YOU BE REMEMBERED FOR

You are either remembered for the evil or good you did as well as the problems you solved or created. Paul, when giving account of those that worked with him said, "Alexander the metalworker did me great harm; the Lord will reward him according to what he has done. Be on your guard against him yourself, because he was violently opposed to our message" - *2Timothy 4:14-15 GNT*

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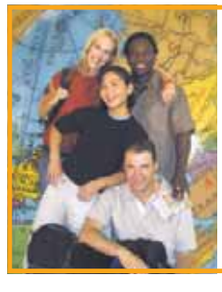

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Ricardo is a Canadian chef, television host and author on a mission: To unite people through the pleasure of food. Discover his delicious and simple recipes every Friday — just in time for the weekend

Bake away those winter blahs

This recipes serves eight to 10 people. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

Ultra Moist Banana Bread. This delicious version features a secret ingredient for extra soft texture

RICARDO COOKS
Chef Ricardo
Ricardo Magazine

When the weather gets a little bit wild, we love nothing more than cooking up something warm, sweet and comforting.

On the menu a penultimate classic: A beautiful banana bread (extra-moist thanks to special ingredient coconut milk, which you won't even taste).

Once a can of coconut milk is opened, you can freeze leftovers. If you don't have it on hand, replace the coconut milk and lime juice with 1/2 cup (125 ml) of sour cream.

1. With the rack in the middle position, preheat the oven to 350 F (180 C). Butter a 9 x 5-inch (23 x 13 cm) loaf pan (a 6-cup/1.5 litre capacity pan) and line with a strip of parchment paper, letting it hang over both sides.

2. In a bowl, combine the flour, baking powder and baking soda. Set aside.

3. In another bowl, combine the bananas, coconut milk and lime juice. Set aside.

4. In a third bowl, cream the butter and sugar with an electric mixer. Add egg and vanilla and beat until smooth. At low speed, add the dry ingredients alternately with the banana mixture.

5. Pour into the loaf pan. Bake for about 1 hour or until a toothpick inserted in the centre of the cake comes out clean.

6. Let cool on a wire rack before removing from the pan and slicing.

FOLLOW RICARDO ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ON RICARDOCUISINE.COM OR SUBSCRIBE TO HIS MAGAZINE'S ENGLISH EDITION, WHICH LAUNCHED IN 2014.

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups (210 g) unbleached all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 1/4 cups (325 g) mashed ripe bananas (3-4 bananas)
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) coconut milk
- 1 tbsp lime juice
- 1/2 cup (115 g) unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup (210 g) sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

Liquid Assets

A toast-worthy cause

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

I'll admit I didn't know much about sustainable wine growing until I finally visited New Zealand last fall.

Sustainability sounds so complicated, it wasn't until I started talking with kiwis about their commitments to protect their land that pieces of the puzzle started fitting together.

When it comes to New Zealand's winemakers, 94 per cent have adopted sustainable vineyard practices "by reducing the use of chemicals, energy, water and packaging, and wherever possible reusing and recycling materials and waste." It's all about monitoring, measuring and trying to reduce their impact on their surroundings so future generations can continue to produce high-quality wines from the local geography.

Sustainability is one of the core values of Auckland-based Villa Maria Estate, and its 2013 Private Bin Sauvignon Blanc ($16.95 - $19.99) is a bright white with light gooseberry fruit and herbaceous highlights.

Try with scallops, mussels and salty goat cheese.

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McEwen sets gaze on getting over hump

Curling. Winnipeg rink on a roll this season, seeks win over Stoughton at provincials to advance to Brier

Mike McEwen's Winnipeg rink has won six of eight events in the first half of the season. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

This could be the year Mike McEwen's curling team shakes the label of the best team never to play in a Brier.

McEwen, third B.J. Neufeld, second Matt Wozniak and lead Denni Neufeld won six of eight events in the first half of the season, including wins over Olympic champion Brad Jacobs in the finals of both The National in November and the Canada Cup in December.

McEwen's Fort Rouge Curling Club rink from Winnipeg is running away with the No. 1 ranking on the World Curling Tour (WCT), with $114,000 in prize money so far.

A team at a crossroads in February after losing its fourth provincial final in five years — and falling one win short again of a trip to the Canadian men's championship — decided to remain intact for an eighth season and reinvent itself.

"Very slowly we kind of gathered our thoughts and decided what we had together as a foursome was still very strong and important, but we had kind of lost our way as far as growing as teammates and as athletes," McEwen said Thursday at the Continental Cup in Calgary.

"We made a commitment to find how to do that again."

The four men began working with the Canadian Curling Association's sports psychologist Kyle Paquette to heal the trouble spots in their game. They stepped up their physical fitness with a personal trainer.

They've been a solid team on the WCT since their formation in 2007 and were among the eight Canadian men's teams who qualified for the Sochi Olympic trials.

But winning Manitoba and representing the province at the Brier means beating world and Canadian champion Jeff Stoughton.

Stoughton eliminated McEwen from contention in four of the last five Manitoba provincials.

Continental Cup

Canada took an early 3.5-point lead over Europe after two draws Thursday at the Continental Cup.

- Mike McEwen was set to take on David Murdoch in the late draw.

Under Paquette's guidance, McEwen says he and his teammates have forged stronger chemistry. They're committed to sticking to their plan, win or lose.

"His approach has made us really change how we think and how we operate as a team," McEwen explained.

"We're very much more supportive and understanding than we ever have been. We're more of a team now than we ever have been. We got a little individualistic at times, and it hurt us."

The Manitoba provincial men's championship is Feb. 4 to 8 in Brandon. The winner advances to the Tim Hortons Brier from Feb. 28 to March 8 in Calgary at Scotiabank Saddledome. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Stampeders re-sign Canada receiver

The Calgary Stampeders re-signed Canadian receiver Simon Charbonneau-Campeau on Thursday.

The 26-year-old St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que., native was scheduled to become a free agent next month. Calgary acquired Charbonneau-Campeau from Hamilton Tiger-Cats on Jan. 6, 2014.

He appeared in 14 regular-season games for Calgary and established career highs with 13 catches for 233 yards and scored his first career touchdown Sept. 6 against Edmonton. Charbonneau-Campeau added two receptions for 74 yards in the West final and had a catch for 28 yards in the Stampeders' 20-16 Grey Cup win over Hamilton.

"I'm pleased that Simon has chosen to remain with the Stampeders," Calgary head coach/GM John Hufnagel said in a statement. "He was an excellent addition to the team in 2014 as he made some very important catches and was a great asset on special teams. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Obituary

J.P. Parise dies of lung cancer

J.P. Parise, a member of Canada's 1972 Summit Series team who played for the Minnesota North Stars and New York Islanders over his NHL career, has died of lung cancer. He was 73. Parise, whose son is Wild star Zach Parise, had 594 points (238 goals, 356 assists) in 890 games from 1965-79 with the Boston Bruins, Toronto Maple Leafs, North Stars, Islanders and Cleveland Barons. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Hawks sound with ground and pound

NFL playoffs. While Seattle averages the most rushing yards, opponent Panthers' run game also thriving

Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch eludes Cardinals linebacker Alex Okafor to score a 79-yard touchdown on Dec. 21 in Glendale, Ariz.
NORM HALL/GETTY IMAGES

Since the arrival of Marshawn Lynch, the Seattle Seahawks' offensive DNA has been defined by running the football first.

This season, the run game of the Seahawks was among the best of any team in the past 30 seasons, a combination of Lynch's bullying style and the improvisation and agility of quarterback Russell Wilson.

But Seattle is not alone. The other seven teams left in the playoffs did quite nicely on the ground themselves — including Carolina, the Seahawks' playoff opponent on Saturday — proving it's still not entirely about the pass game.

"There's a constant emphasis for us. The way we want to play," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said.

While Seattle led the league in rushing and gets the bulk of attention for its philosophy of being so committed to the run game, they aren't alone in leaning so heavily on the run. Six of the eight teams in the divisional round of the playoffs finished in the top half of the league.

Dallas was second in the league but 25 yards per game behind Seattle. Carolina finished seventh, Baltimore eighth and Green Bay 11th. Even the Broncos, who averaged 111.6 yards per game, finished 15th in the league.

Only New England and Indianapolis finished in the bottom half of the league, but each still averaged more than 100 yards per game rushing.

Seattle concluded the regular season averaging 172.6 yards per game on the ground. While that doesn't seem as if it's an excessive mark, it's among rare company over the past three decades.

Carolina has thrived on the ground during its late-season run to reach the postseason. The Panthers are averaging 196.6 yards rushing per game during their five-game winning streak.

Jonathan Stewart has carried the load, averaging 104.8 yards per game with two touchdowns during that span. A healthier Cam Newton has also had an elevated role in the running game, averaging 56.2 yards per game with three TDs in the past five games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Good vibrations

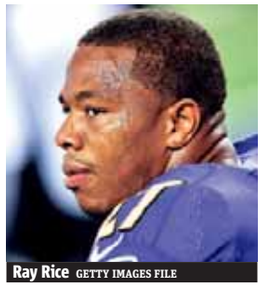
Earthquake trackers are setting up instruments at CenturyLink Field in Seattle to record expected vibrations from jumping and stomping Seahawks fans during Saturday's playoff game.

- Scientists are testing technology that could provide an early warning of underground shaking.

Ray Rice. NFL should have sought more info on elevator attack: Investigator

The NFL failed to investigate the Ray Rice case properly, former FBI director Robert S. Mueller said in a report that also said he found no evidence the league received a video of the Ravens running back knocking out his fiancée in a casino elevator.

"The NFL should have done more with the information it had and should have taken additional steps to obtain all available information about the Feb. 15 incident," Mueller said in a statement after releasing his 96-page report.



Ray Rice GETTY IMAGES FILE

The report said a review of phone records and emails of NFL employees showed no evidence that anyone in the league had seen the video before commissioner Roger Goodell initially suspended Rice for two games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"There's a very strong confidence in Roger going forward in terms of him being the commissioner of the league."

Steelers president Art Rooney, on Roger Goodell's handling of the Ray Rice case

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Anyone who thinks they can get you to believe something that is untrue does not know you. Pretend to agree, turn around at the last moment and tell them to get lost.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You'll be dealing with important people today. The trick is to get them to make things happen for you. If you get the chance to impress them, take it.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
If you are having second thoughts about something you recently agreed to there is still time to change your mind.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You want to make a good impression on employers but you also want to tell the truth — and you may not be able to do both. Be honest today.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Take no notice if a friend tries to terrify you with tales of what might go wrong. According to the planets things will go your way over the next 24 hours and those that don't can't hurt you.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You may not agree with someone's opinions but you support their right to express them – which will, of course, bring you into conflict with people who believe that free speech is not sacred.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Everyone has limits and if you stay within them nothing will go wrong. But if you think you can do anything you like, you could make a fool of yourself.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If you allow personal feelings to influence your decisions today at least one of those decisions will cause you grief. Stick to the facts and avoid wishful thinking.

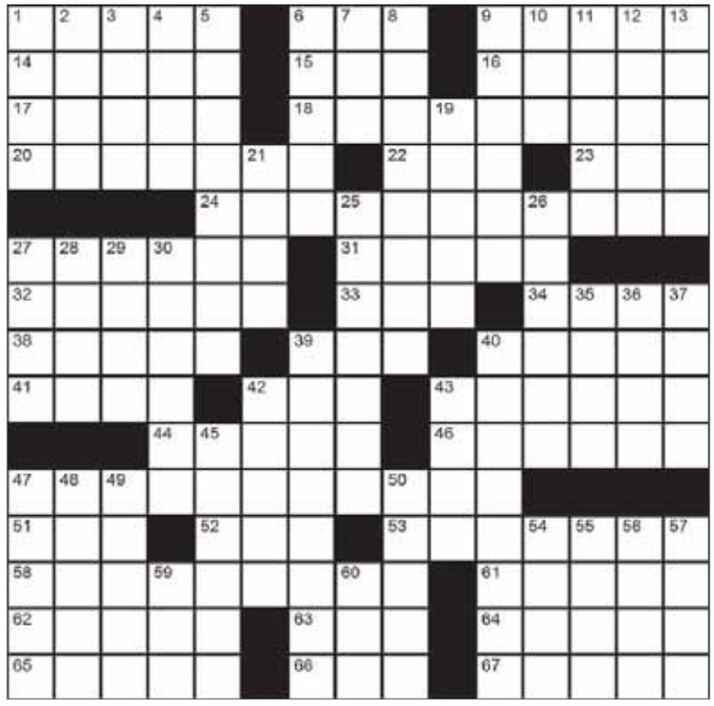
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
According to the planets a colleague is envious of your popularity and success and would like nothing better than to bring you down a notch. That can only happen if you don't stay alert for challenges.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Someone in a position of power isn't convinced you have what it takes to do a certain task, but you'll delight in proving them wrong. Come tomorrow they will be your biggest fan.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If someone wiser than you offers advice listen and think about doing what they say, because it could save you a fortune. You know a lot but you can't possibly know it all.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Everyone wants to please you. But don't let it blind you to the fact that you may have to make some unpopular calls.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Be silent, in music
6. Front door rug
9. Branch holders
14. Marry quickly
15. Card game
16. ___ snowball (Make part of Frosty's body)
17. Frenzied
18. Grist Grinding Grandeur: Old __ __ (National Historic Site of Canada in Delta, Ontario)
20. Barenaked Ladies song: 2 wds.
22. Long time
23. Y-following alternative
24. NFLD: Uniquely-named place on Fogo Island: 3 wds.
27. Curtains' coveree
31. Designer Mr. Morali oglu
32. Outlying residential areas
33. Nicknamed "American Idol" judge
34. Scottish musician Midge's
38. Quick snacks
39. Football star Mr. Manning, for short
40. CBC's "Marketplace" co-host Ms. Johnson
41. Fish or instrument
42. Do tailoring
43. OED = __ English Dictionary
44. Beatles: "You Won't __ __"
46. Sneezer's need
47. Artifacts on which the wedge-shaped script at #58-Across can be found: 2 wds.
51. Bamboozle
52. Vertical opposite [abbr.]
53. Blotchy
58. Ancient system of writing
61. Clear
62. Sir Newton
63. Ell's predecessor
64. Scandinavian
65. Sleeveless garments
66. Dorothy's Auntie's namesakes
67. Paramount Pictures co-founder, Adolph __ (b.1873 - d.1976)

Down
1. Short-term worker, commonly
2. Jai __ (Court game)
3. Hartford, __.
4. Tale type
5. Silicon Valley gigs: 2 wds.
6. Paintings place, in Paris
7. Fire or Army
8. Show up an hour ahead of time, be this: 2 wds.
9. Thirty: French
10. CD-__
11. Miss Doolittle of theatre
12. Aunt in Oklahoma!
13. Rob __ (Canadian pop culture guru)
19. "I will __ __ it!" (Never!)
21. Cuts grass
25. Decorate the tiara
26. Blue cartoon characters
27. Songwriter Jimmy
28. Corn lily
29. Almonds, and others
30. Fancily attired
35. Rivers: Spanish
36. Beige
37. "Smooth Operator" singer
39. Ontario city on the Ottawa River
40. dAvid cronenberG mOviE
42. Al Pacino/Ellen Barkin movie, "__ __ Love" (1989)
43. Sgt. Snorkel's dog
45. Morals
47. Old Rome's 304
48. Cad
49. Faris and Paquin
50. Television awards
54. Pants, for short
55. Frolic
56. Gas station name
57. "The __ Hunter" (1978)
59. Deplete
60. Bash

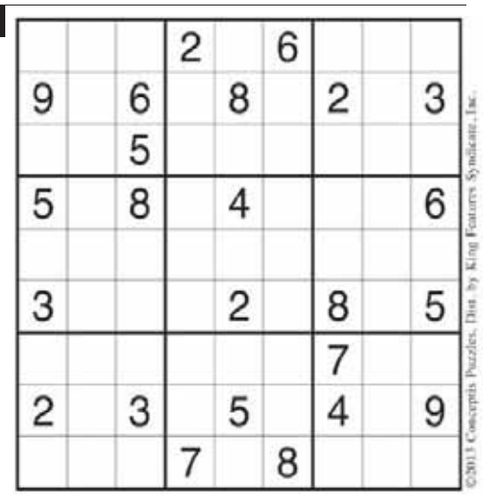
Yesterday's Crossword

Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



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Yesterday's Sudoku

4	6	7	2	9	8	3	1	5
9	3	8	5	7	1	4	6	2
1	2	5	3	4	6	7	9	8
6	5	1	8	2	3	9	7	4
2	7	4	1	5	9	6	8	3
3	8	9	7	6	4	5	2	1
7	4	2	9	1	5	8	3	6
5	9	3	6	8	2	1	4	7
8	1	6	4	3	7	2	5	9

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